

DEATH OF WOLVERINE



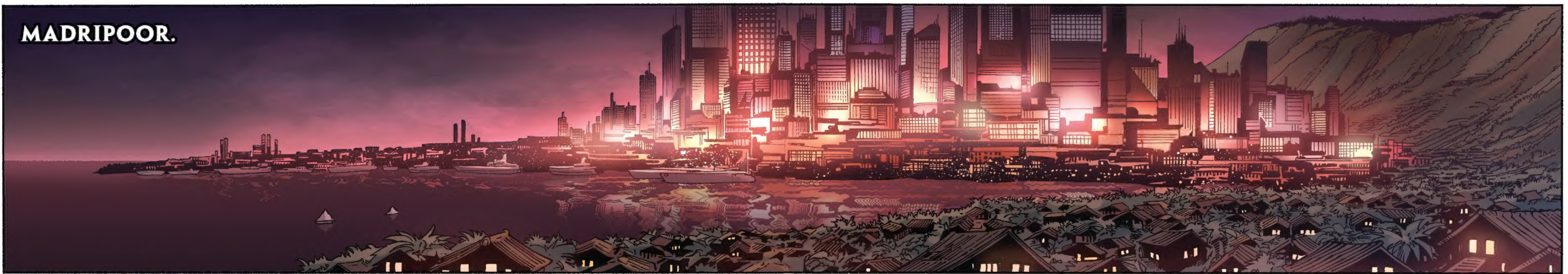
MARVEL

2 of 4

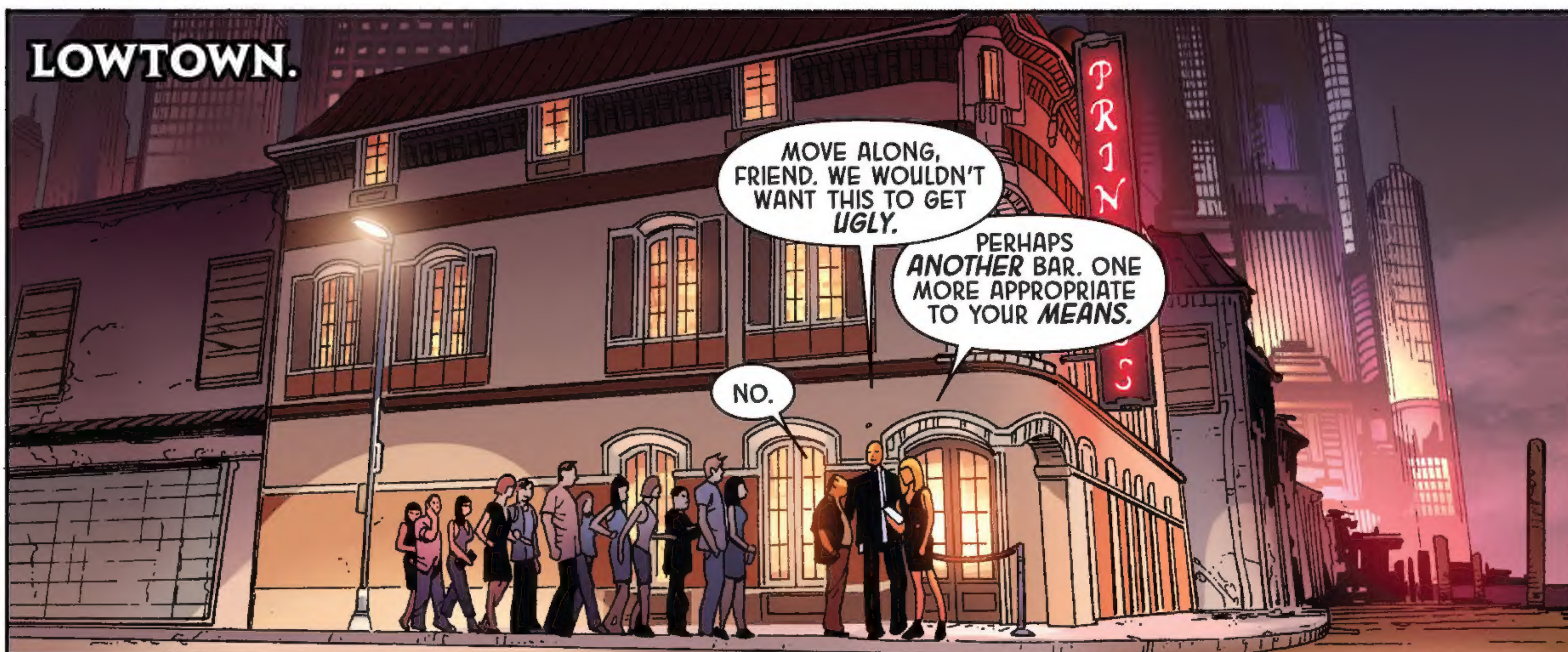
CHARLES SOULE
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POISON

MADRIPOOR.



LOWTOWN.



MOVE ALONG, FRIEND. WE WOULDN'T WANT THIS TO GET UGLY.

PERHAPS ANOTHER BAR. ONE MORE APPROPRIATE TO YOUR MEANS.

NO.



THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE.



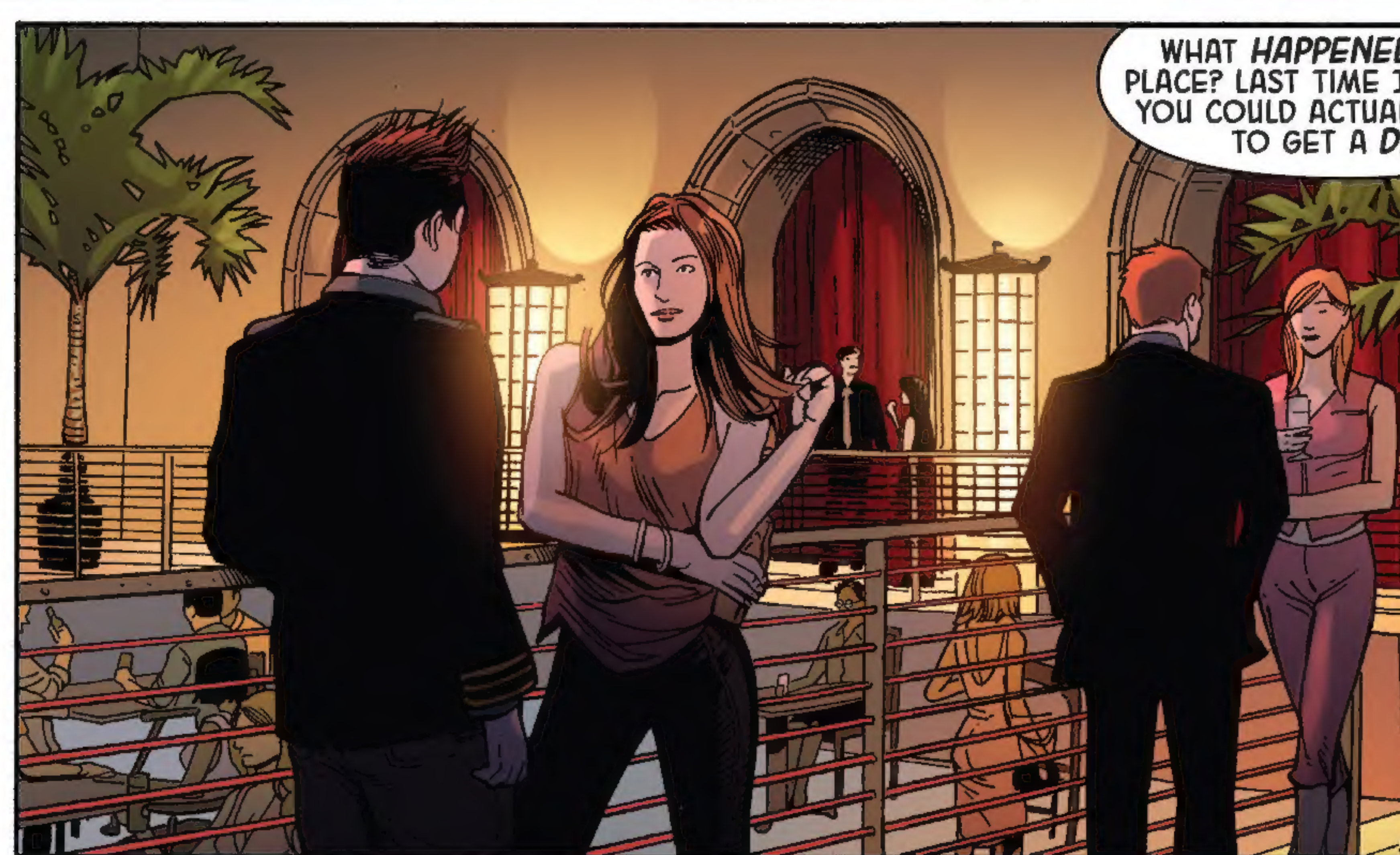
I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT.



V--
HUSH.



OF COURSE, SIR. ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES. PLEASE GO AHEAD.



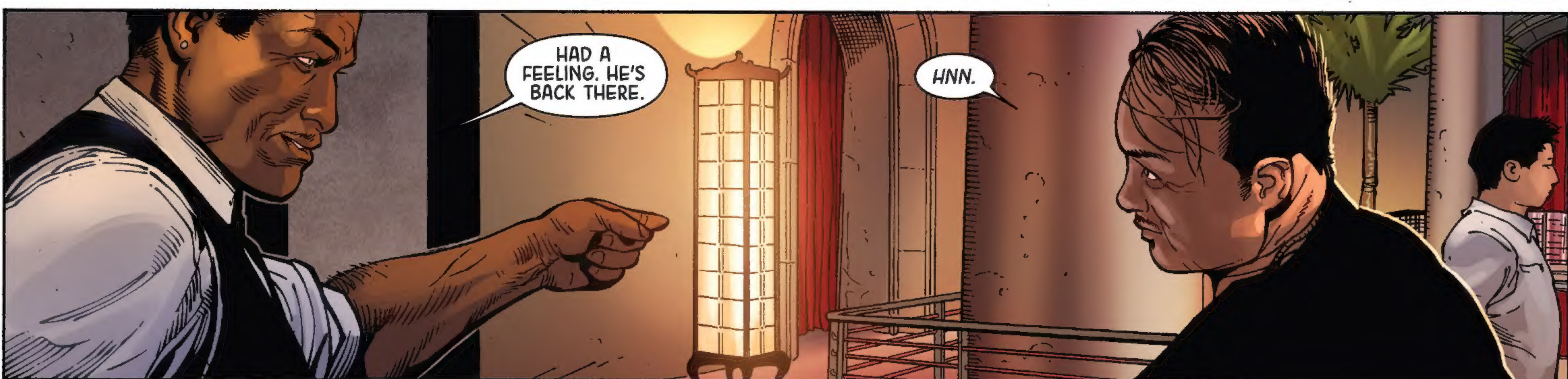
WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS PLACE? LAST TIME I WAS HERE, YOU COULD ACTUALLY AFFORD TO GET A DRINK.



YOU KNOW...MADRIPOOR. SOMEONE DECIDED THEY COULD MAKE A FEW RINGGITS CHARGING THE HIGHTOWN FOLKS AN ARM AND A LEG TO PRETEND THEY'RE HAVING A DANGEROUS NIGHT OUT DOWN BY THE DOCKS.

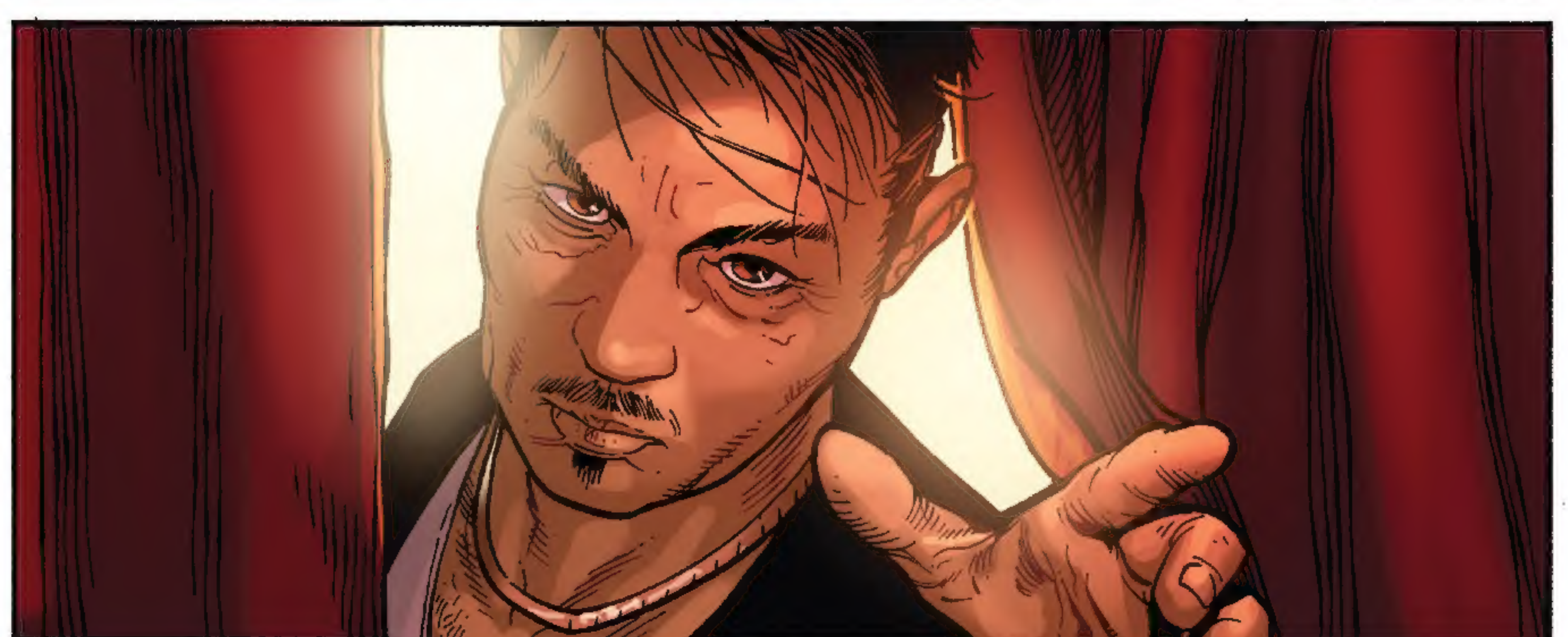
BUT YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE YOU'RE HERE FOR THAT.

NO. I'M MEETING SOMEONE.



HAD A FEELING. HE'S BACK THERE.

HNN.





HEY,
MAN.

HAVE A
SEAT.

DEATH OF WOLVERINE PART TWO

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MY NAME IS KORO.

AND YOU SEEK THE **EMERALD QUEEN**, A WOMAN WHOM MOST IN MADRIPPOOR AVOID AT ALL COSTS.

YOU PLAY A **DANGEROUS GAME**, SIR.

AIN'T A **GAME**. THIS IS **BUSINESS**.

SO WE'VE HEARD. APPARENTLY, YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO **SELL**, AND YOU THINK VIPER WILL **BUY**.

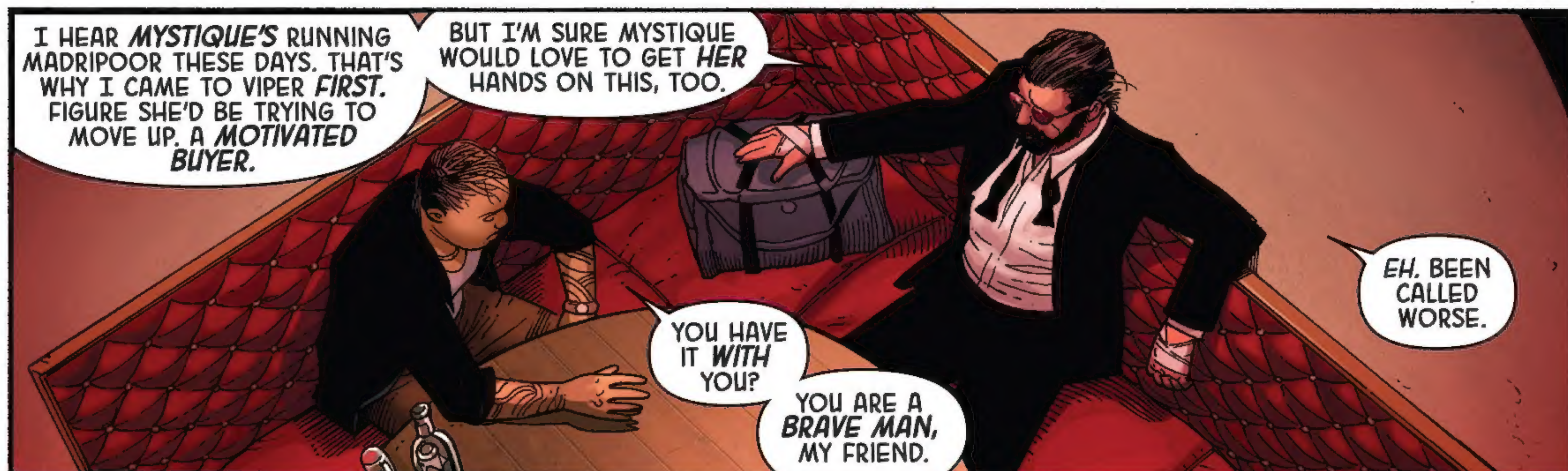
SOUR



UH-HUH. I'VE BEEN WAITING AROUND THIS DAMN TOWN FOR **WEEKS**.

NOW, IT'S HARD **NOT** TO HAVE A GOOD TIME IN MADRIPPOOR, GOD KNOWS... BUT IF VIPER'S NOT **INTERESTED**, I'LL JUST MOVE ON.

AND YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHY SHE MISSED OUT ON THE ITEM IN QUESTION, **KORO**.



I HEAR **MYSTIQUE'S** RUNNING MADRIPPOOR THESE DAYS. THAT'S WHY I CAME TO VIPER **FIRST**. FIGURE SHE'D BE TRYING TO MOVE UP. A **MOTIVATED BUYER**.

BUT I'M SURE MYSTIQUE WOULD LOVE TO GET **HER** HANDS ON THIS, TOO.

YOU HAVE IT **WITH** YOU?

YOU ARE A **BRAVE MAN**, MY FRIEND.

EH, BEEN CALLED **WORSE**.



SOMEONE WANTS TO **TAKE** IT, THEY'RE **WELCOME** TO TRY.



CAN I...**SEE** IT?

ACCELERATED HEARTBEAT



SURE.



GODS...

THAT'S A **MARK IX**.
THE ONLY VERSIONS
MORE RECENT THAN
THIS LIVE IN TONY
STARK'S HEAD.

MAY
I...MAY
I...?

KNOCK
YOURSELF
OUT.

THERE ARE, OF
COURSE, CERTAIN
QUESTIONS OF
PROVENANCE.
WE WOULD NEED
TO **VERIFY** THAT
THIS IS NOT
SOME CLEVER
FAKE.

EVERYTHING
IS COUNTERFEITED
IN MADRIPPOOR.

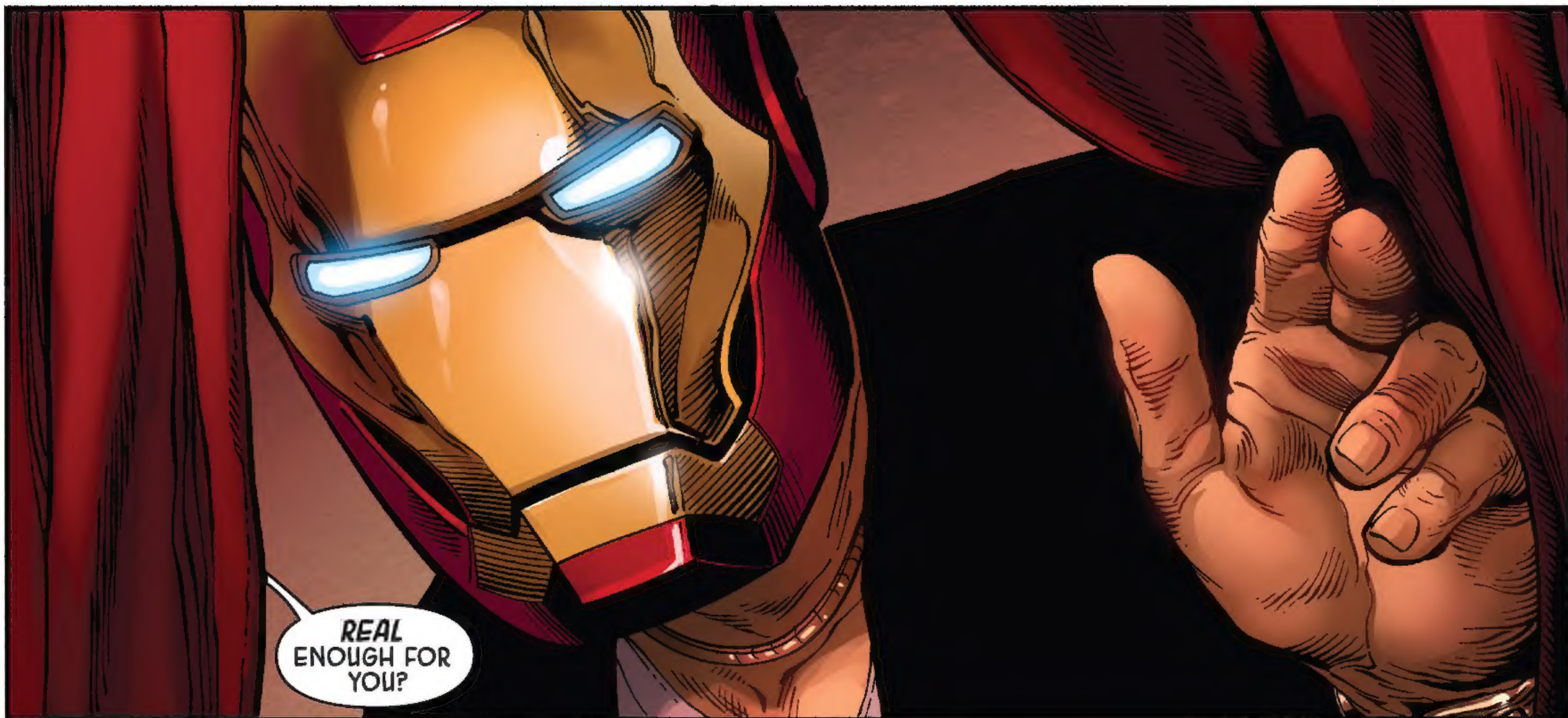
TRY IT
ON.

SWEAT

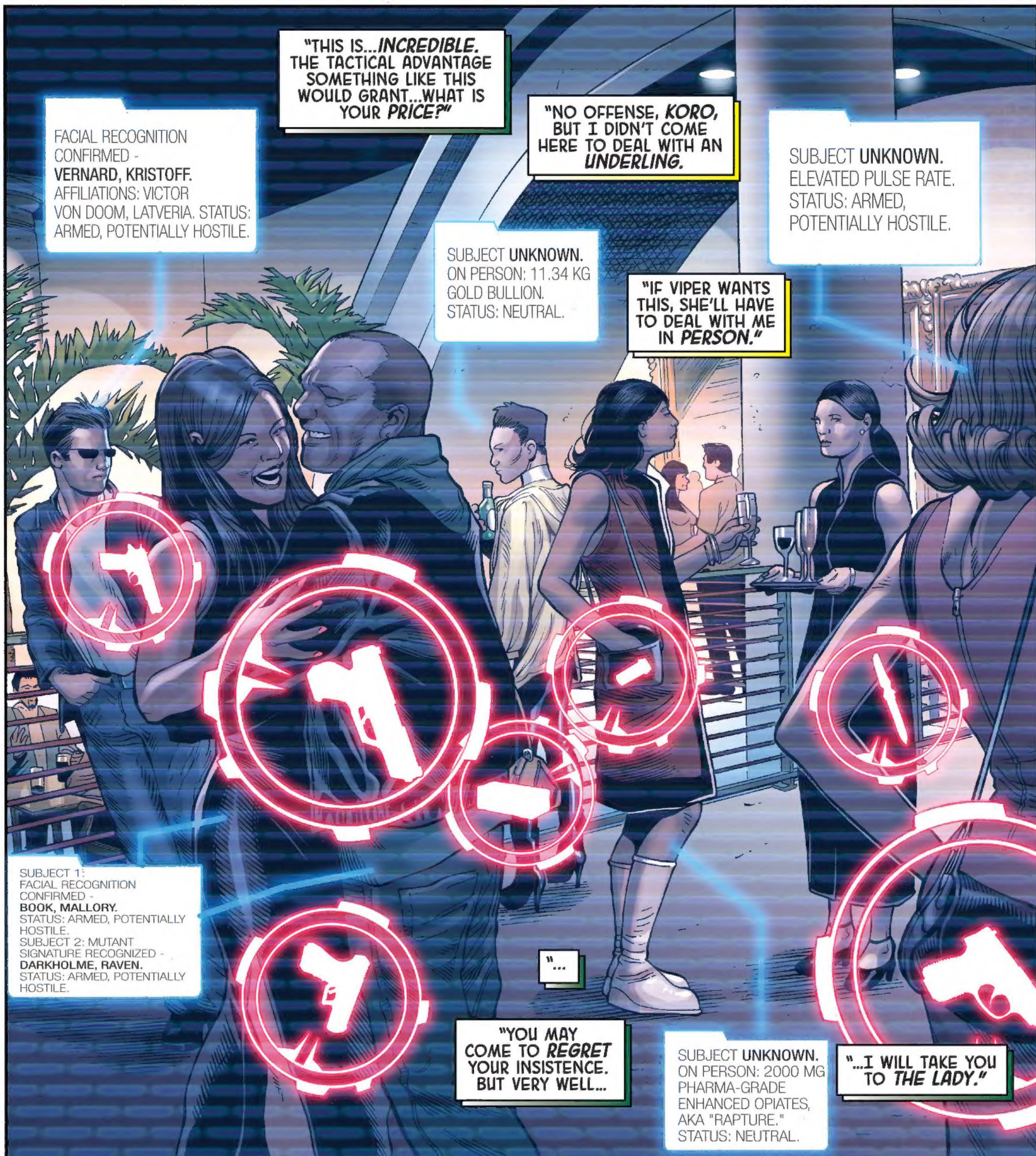


YOU TELL
ME.

**HEART
POUNDING**



REAL
ENOUGH FOR
YOU?



"THIS IS...**INCREDIBLE**.
THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE
SOMETHING LIKE THIS
WOULD GRANT...WHAT IS
YOUR **PRICE?**"

FACIAL RECOGNITION
CONFIRMED -
VERNARD, KRISTOFF.
AFFILIATIONS: VICTOR
VON DOOM, LATVERIA. STATUS:
ARMED, POTENTIALLY HOSTILE.

"NO OFFENSE, **KORO**,
BUT I DIDN'T COME
HERE TO DEAL WITH AN
UNDERLING."

SUBJECT UNKNOWN.
ELEVATED PULSE RATE.
STATUS: ARMED,
POTENTIALLY HOSTILE.

SUBJECT UNKNOWN.
ON PERSON: 11.34 KG
GOLD BULLION.
STATUS: NEUTRAL.

"IF VIPER WANTS
THIS, SHE'LL HAVE
TO DEAL WITH ME
IN **PERSON**."

SUBJECT 1:
FACIAL RECOGNITION
CONFIRMED -
BOOK, MALLORY.
STATUS: ARMED, POTENTIALLY
HOSTILE.
SUBJECT 2: MUTANT
SIGNATURE RECOGNIZED -
DARKHOLME, RAVEN.
STATUS: ARMED, POTENTIALLY
HOSTILE.

"..."

"YOU MAY
COME TO **REGRET**
YOUR INSISTENCE.
BUT VERY WELL..."

SUBJECT UNKNOWN.
ON PERSON: 2000 MG
PHARMA-GRADE
ENHANCED OPIATES,
AKA "RAPTURE."
STATUS: NEUTRAL.

"...I WILL TAKE YOU
TO **THE LADY**."

HIGHTOWN.

THIS IS
THE ONE WHO
HAS BEEN SEEKING
AN AUDIENCE.

HE HAS
WHAT HE CLAIMS.
I VERIFIED IT
MYSELF.

HEY,
DARLING.

CYANIDE

ARSENIC

STRYCHNINE

BELLADONNA

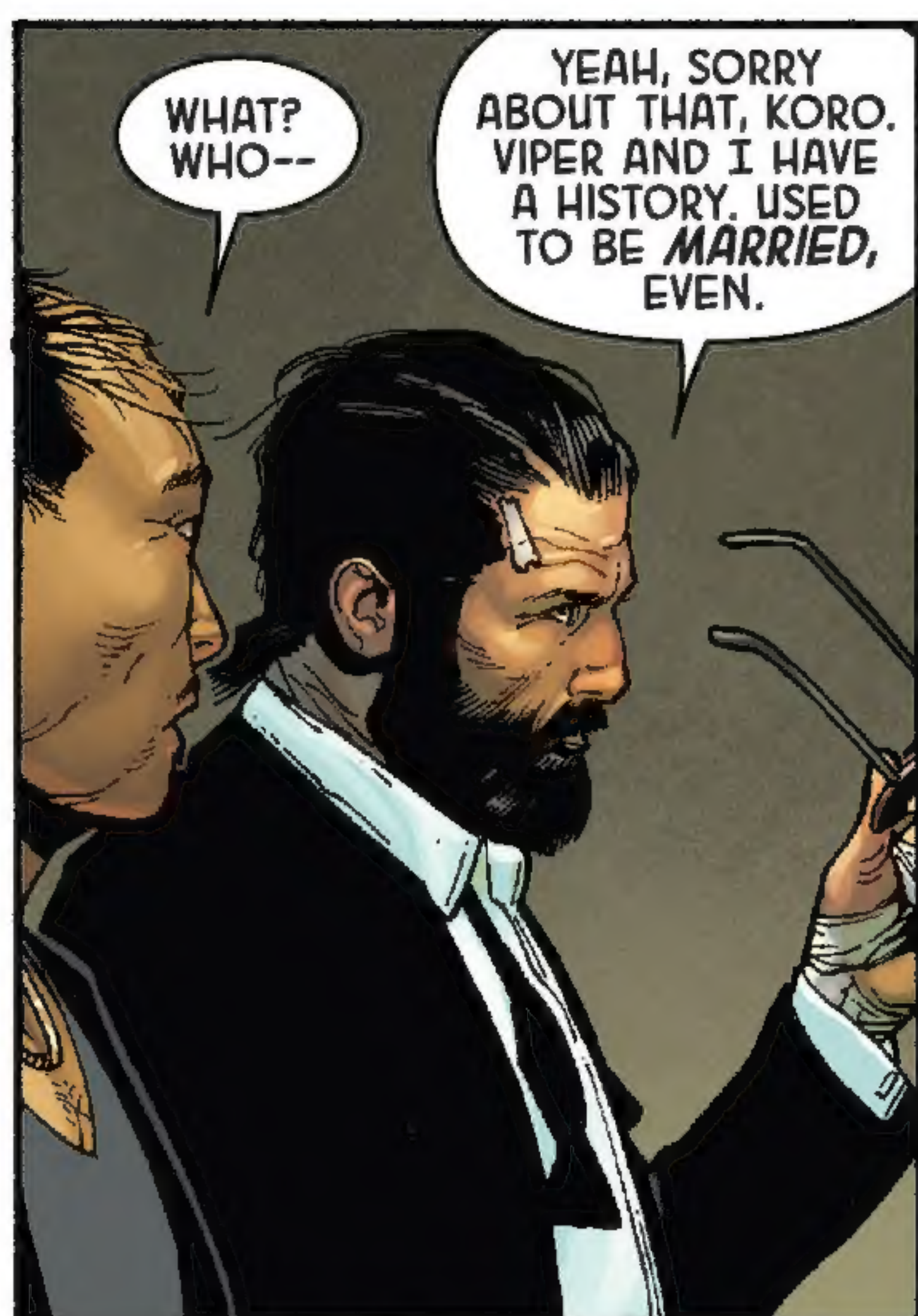
BOTULINUM

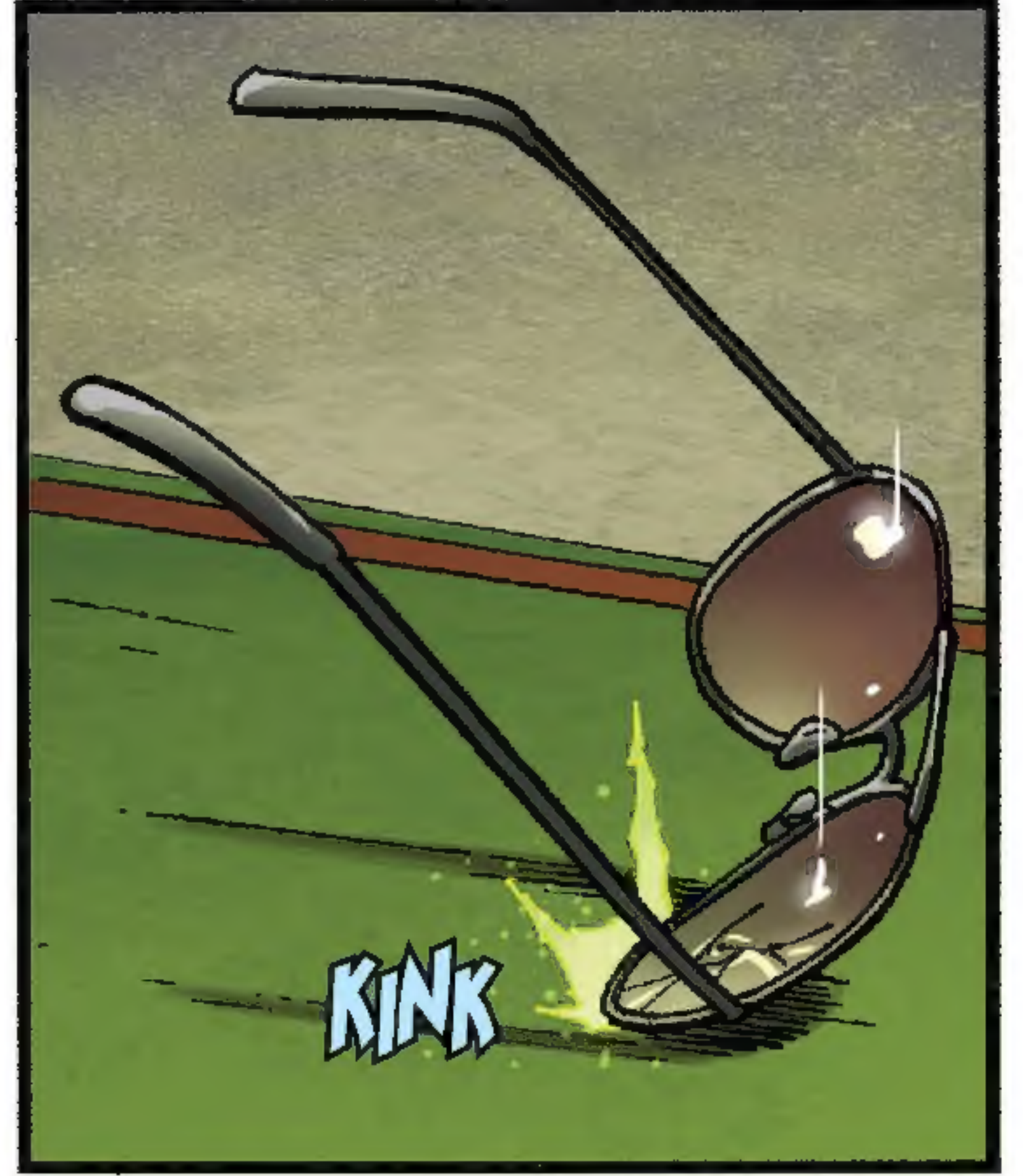
TABUN

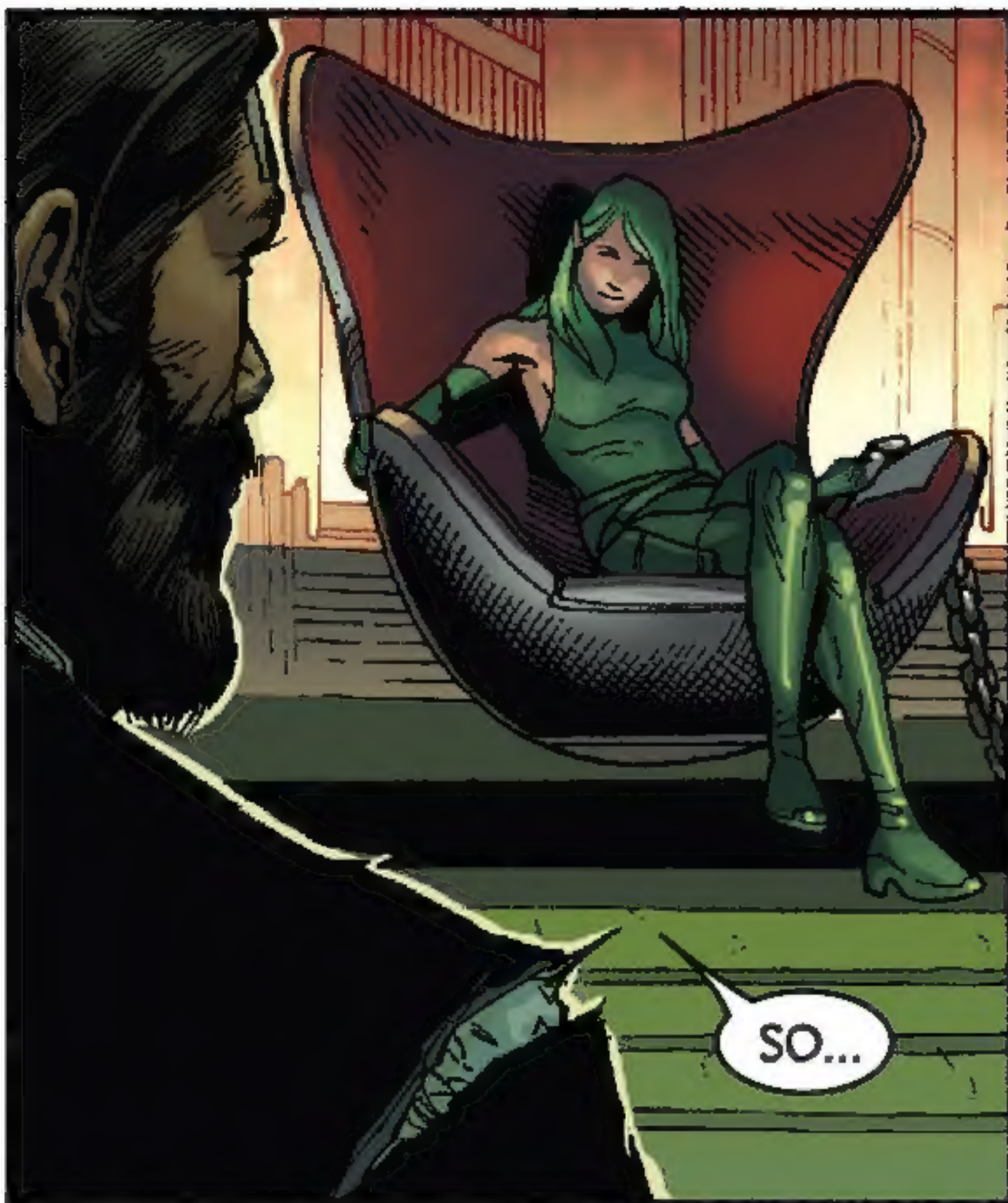
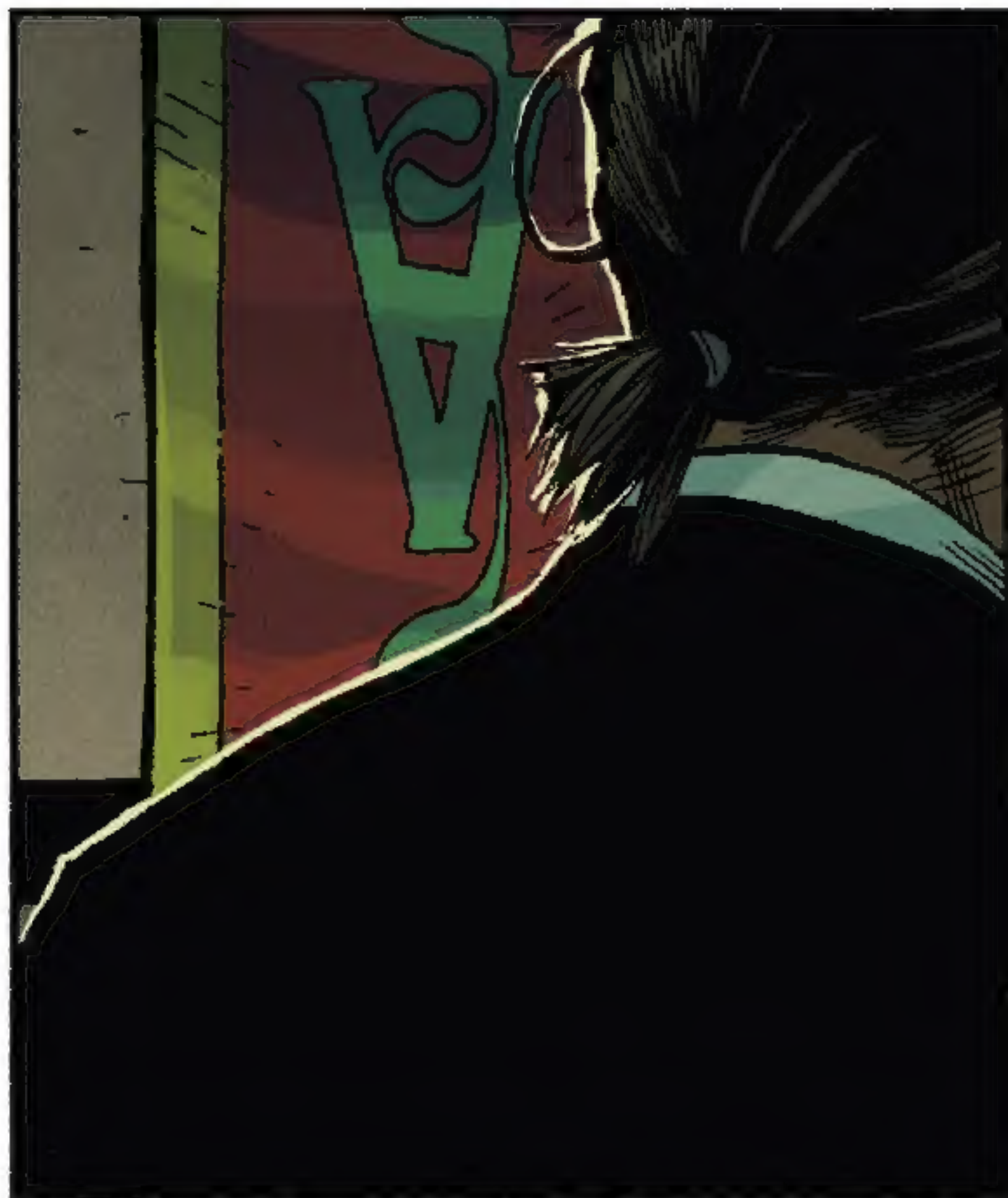
BATRACHOTOXIN

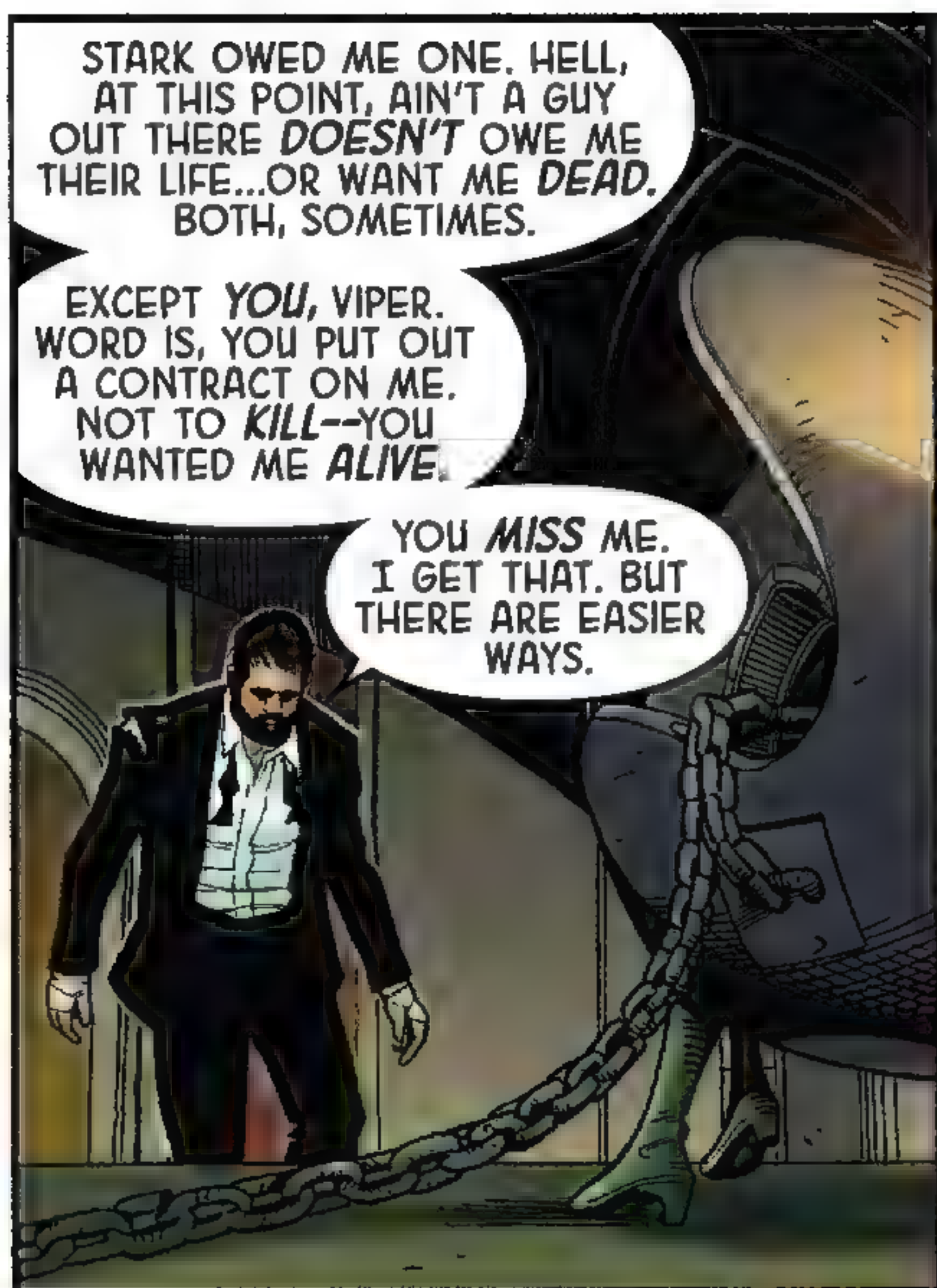
VIPER.

AND...SOMETHING...
SOMEONE...









STARK OWED ME ONE. HELL, AT THIS POINT, AIN'T A GUY OUT THERE **DOESN'T** OWE ME THEIR LIFE...OR WANT ME **DEAD**. BOTH, SOMETIMES.

EXCEPT **YOU**, VIPER. WORD IS, YOU PUT OUT A CONTRACT ON ME. NOT TO **KILL**--YOU WANTED ME **ALIVE**.

YOU **MISS** ME. I GET THAT. BUT THERE ARE EASIER WAYS.



DON'T **FLATTER** YOURSELF.



PEOPLE ARE **DYING**. TELL ME WHY I'M HERE. **NOW**.

POISONS...**THICK**... **CLOYING**

AND... **SOMETHING**...



YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE I'M THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT I DO, **LOGAN**.

NOW, WHAT I DO ISN'T VERY **NICE**, OF COURSE--I KNOW **KILLERS**, AND I **RUN** **KILLERS**.

A CLIENT CAME TO ME. HE WAS NEW, BUT HE WAS WILLING TO PAY...**SO MUCH**. A **RIDICULOUS** AMOUNT, EVEN FOR A TARGET LIKE **YOU**.

HE HIRED ME, AND THEN I... **SUBCONTRACTED**. PUT THE WORD OUT. NO MORE THAN THAT.

HE'S KEEPING ME... **BUSY**. QUITE A LITTLE PROJECT HE'S GOT GOING. HIJACKED **AIRLINERS**, KIDNAPPINGS, ROBBING **MUSEUMS**--HE WANTED A STATUE OF THE **HULK**, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE THAT.



ENOUGH **SCREWING** AROUND, **VIPER**.

WHO'S THE **CLIENT**?

CLNK

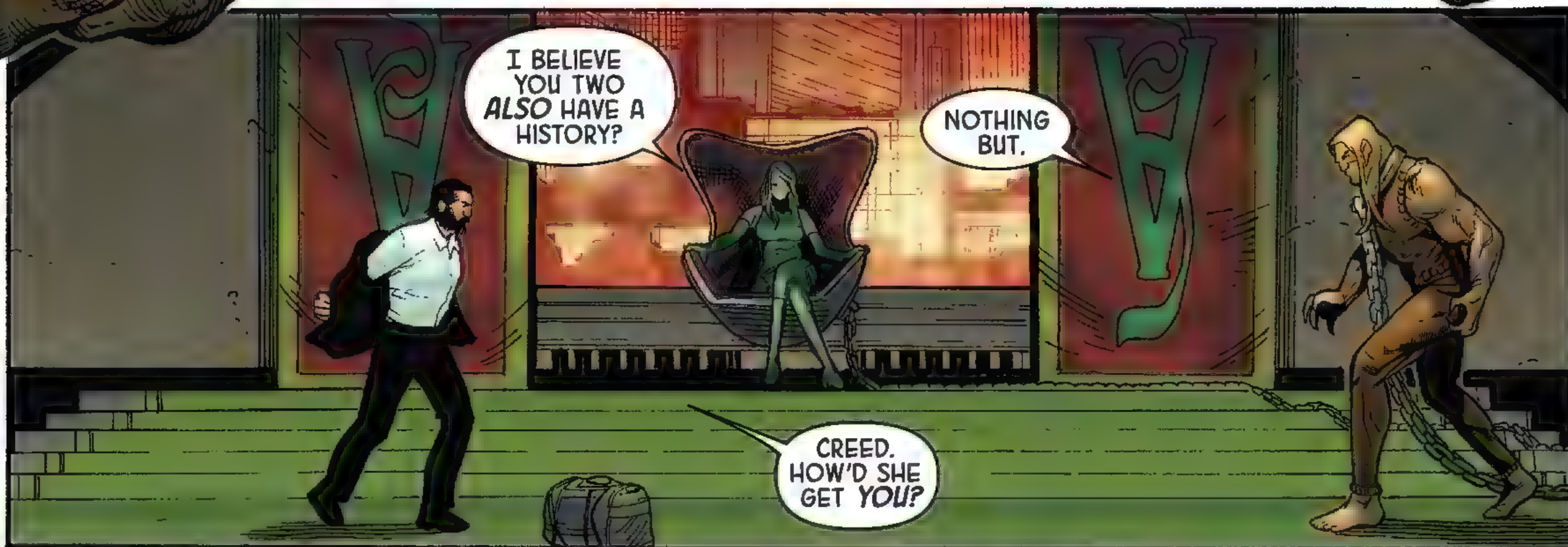
EASY, **LOVER**. I'LL TELL YOU.

YOU JUST HAVE TO **EARN** IT.

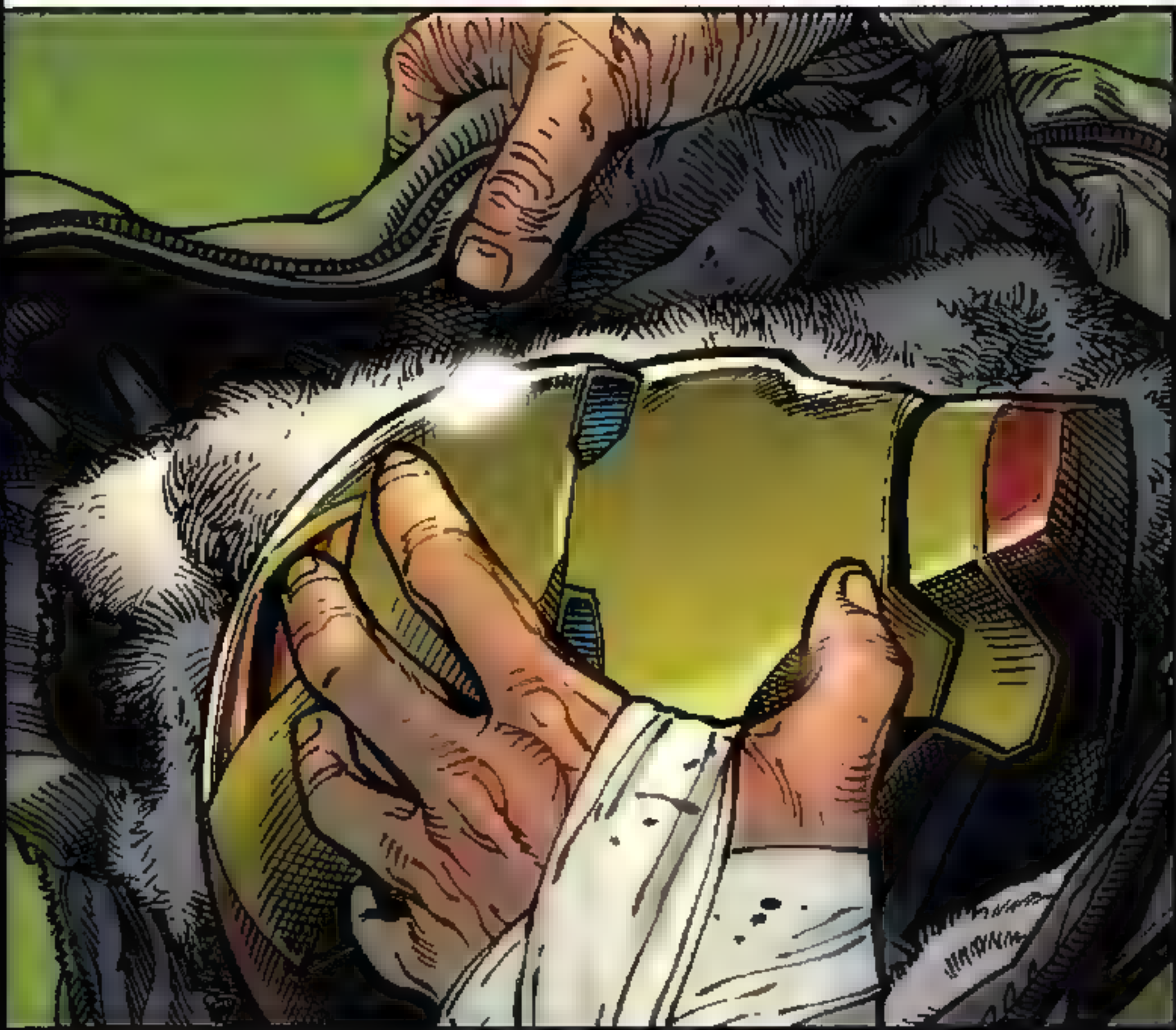


BEAT MY **DOG**, AND I'LL TELL YOU **EVERYTHING**.

CLNK!

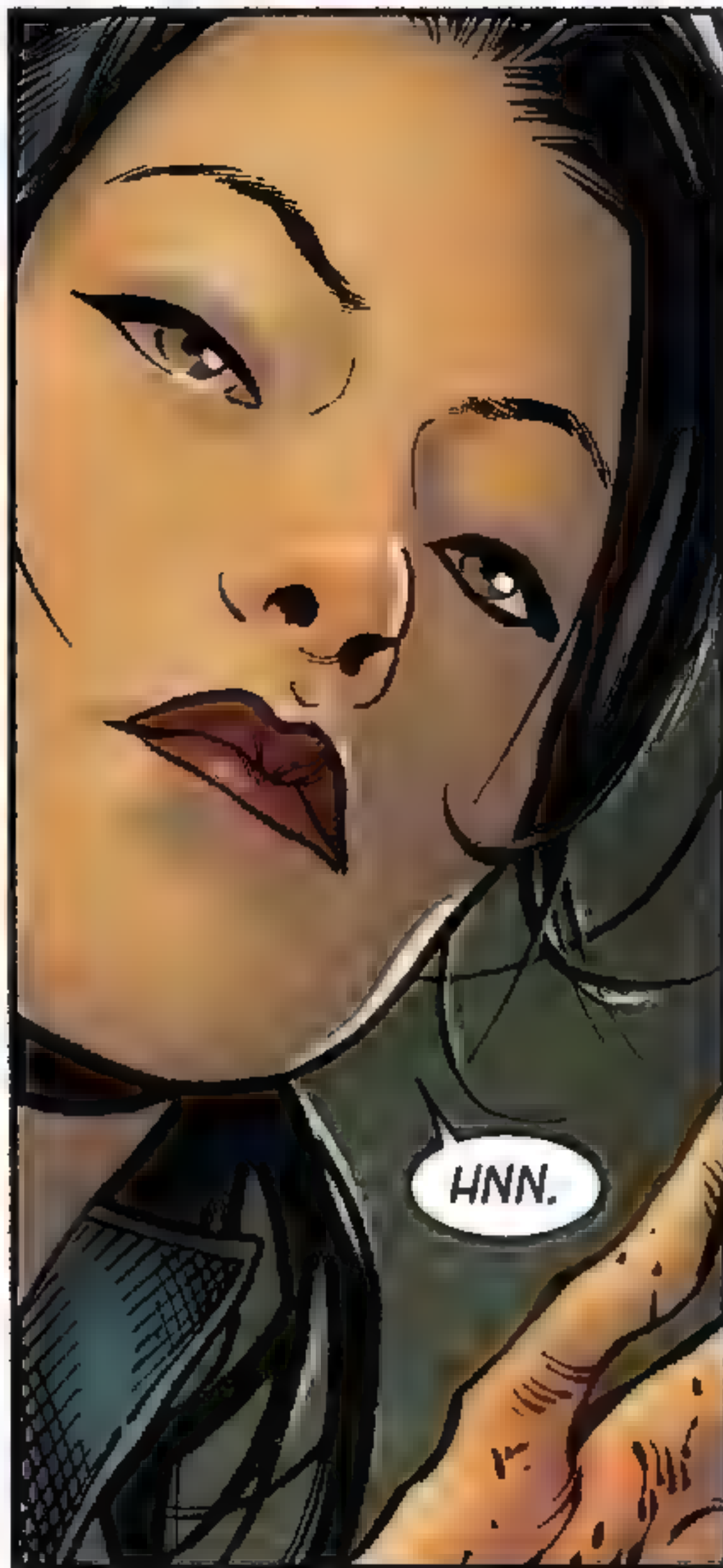














VIPER?

GONE. SHE
SLIPPED AWAY
AS SOON AS I
APPEARED.

YEAH.
IF SHE'S
ANYTHING,
SHE'S A
SURVIVOR.

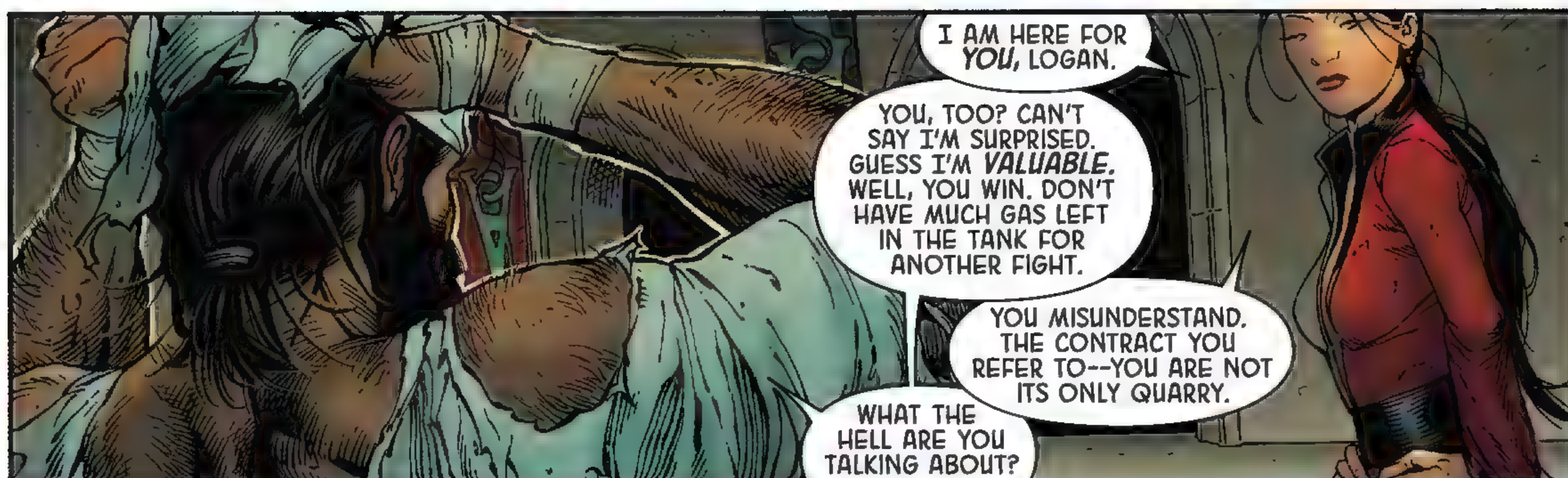
DAMMIT.



SHE
WAS GOING
TO--

DAMMIT.

WHY ARE
YOU HERE,
YURIKO?

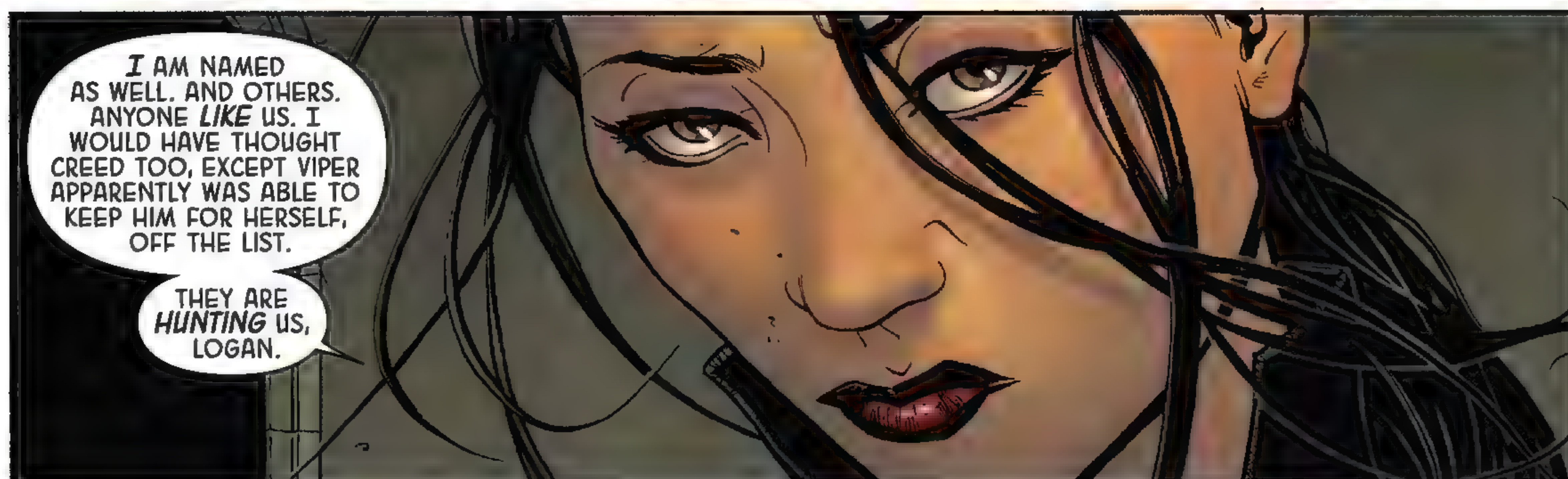


I AM HERE FOR
YOU, LOGAN.

YOU, TOO? CAN'T
SAY I'M SURPRISED.
GUESS I'M **VALUABLE**.
WELL, YOU WIN. DON'T
HAVE MUCH GAS LEFT
IN THE TANK FOR
ANOTHER FIGHT.

YOU MISUNDERSTAND.
THE CONTRACT YOU
REFER TO--YOU ARE NOT
ITS ONLY QUARRY.

WHAT THE
HELL ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?



I AM NAMED
AS WELL. AND OTHERS.
ANYONE *LIKE* US. I
WOULD HAVE THOUGHT
CREED TOO, EXCEPT VIPER
APPARENTLY WAS ABLE TO
KEEP HIM FOR HERSELF,
OFF THE LIST.

THEY ARE
HUNTING US,
LOGAN.

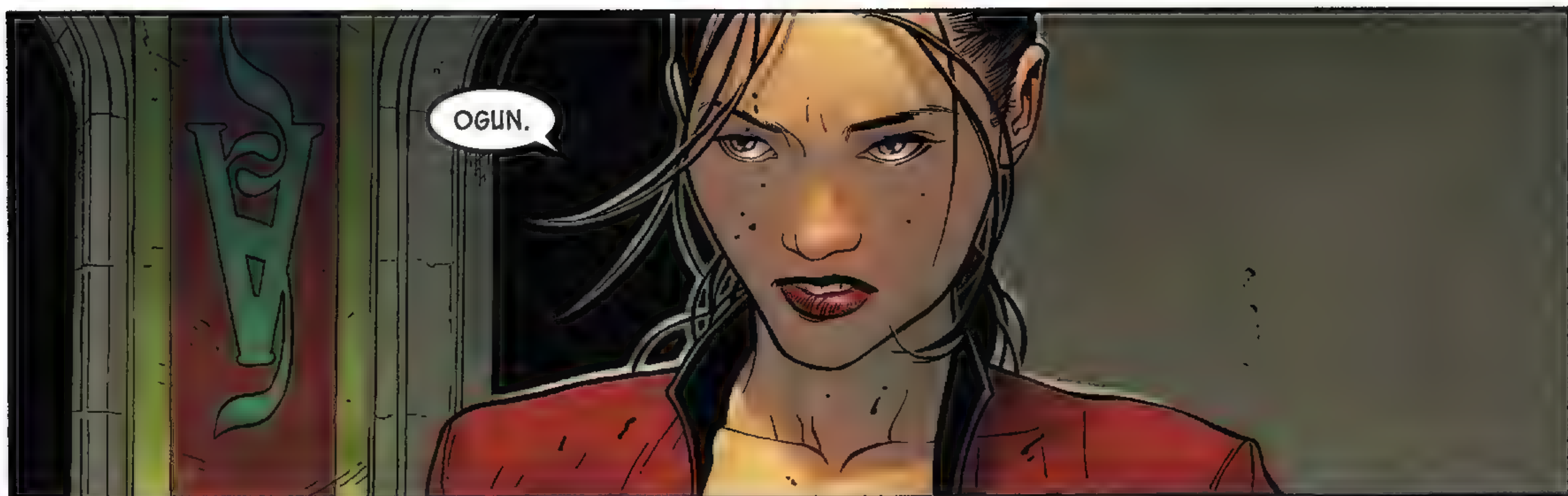


VIPER SAID SOMETHING
ABOUT A *CLIENT*--SOME
SORT OF *PLAN*. DO
YOU KNOW--?

NO. NOT YET. I
KNOW ONLY THIS--I
CAME HERE FROM JAPAN.
I LEARNED OF THE
CONTRACT, OF THE *LIST*,
FROM ANOTHER HUNTER.
VERY DEADLY.

I BARELY
ESCAPED WITH
MY LIFE.

WHO?



OGUN.



LORD.
OGUN.

YES. THAT IS WHY I
TRACKED YOU HERE, TO
MADRIPOOR. I THOUGHT
WE MIGHT PUT ASIDE OUR
DIFFERENCES, WORK
TOGETHER TO DISCOVER
THE TRUTH AND DEFEAT
OUR ENEMY.

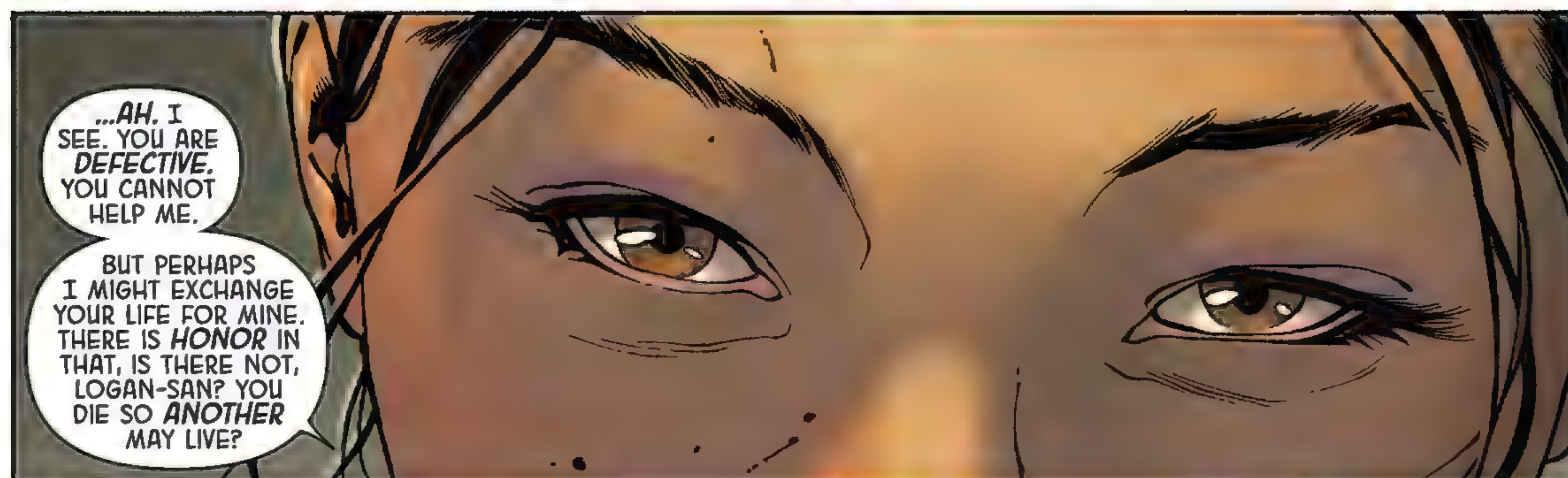
THIS IS VERY
BAD. I HESITATE TO SAY
THIS, BUT I NEED YOUR
STRENGTH, LOGAN. I--

...
HNN.



WHY DOES
YOUR **EYE** NOT
HEAL?

AND WHY DID YOU
NOT USE YOUR **CLAWS**
IN THE FIGHT WITH
CREED? WHAT IS THE
MATTER WITH YOU,
LOGAN?



...AH. I
SEE. YOU ARE
DEFECTIVE.
YOU CANNOT
HELP ME.

BUT PERHAPS
I MIGHT EXCHANGE
YOUR LIFE FOR MINE.
THERE IS **HONOR** IN
THAT, IS THERE NOT,
LOGAN-SAN? YOU
DIE SO **ANOTHER**
MAY LIVE?



AHH,
COME
ON.

SHKK!

YOU
KNOW...



...I REALLY
WOULDN'T.

→KKT←



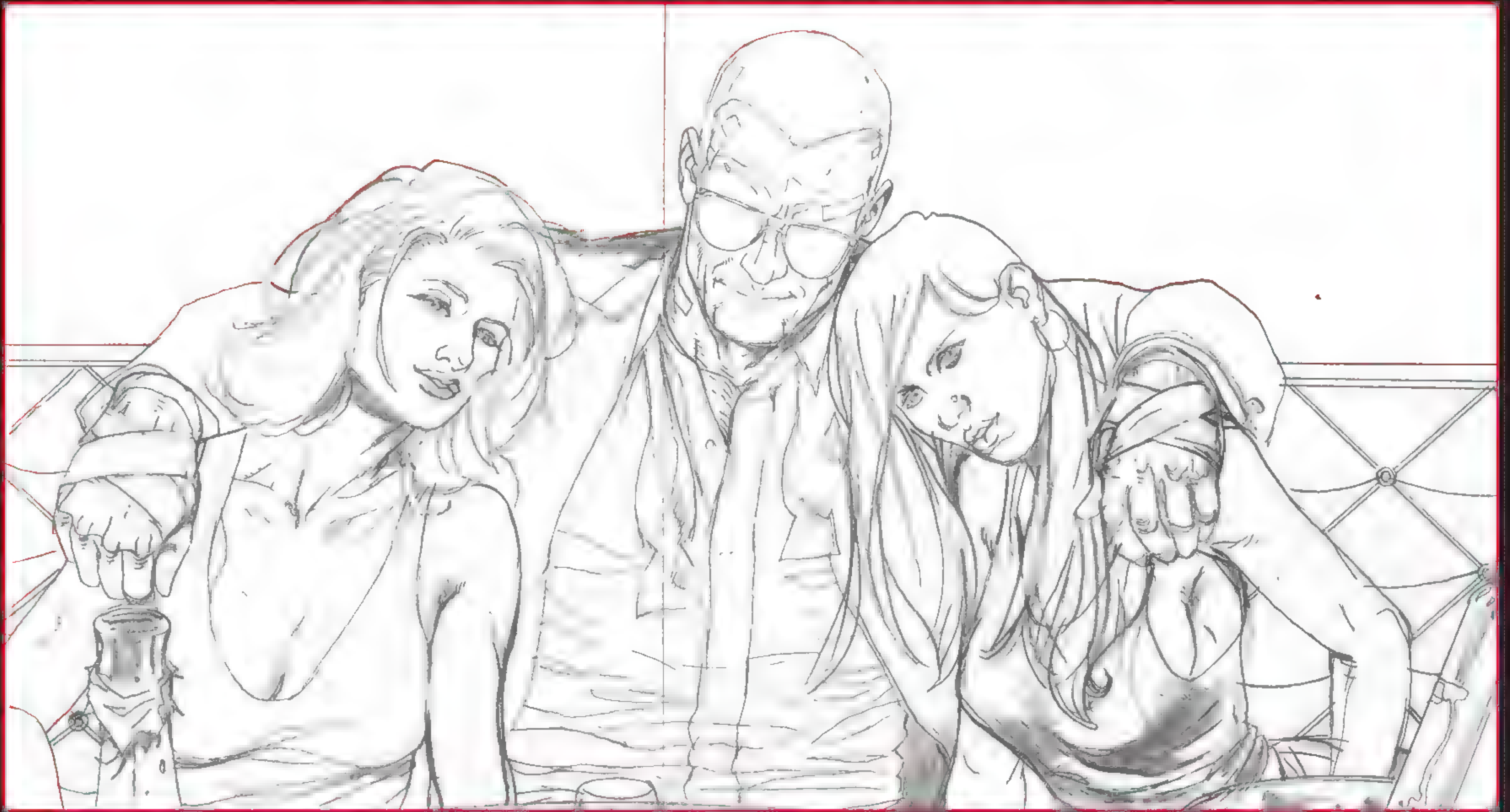
HEY,
KITTY.

**NEXT:
JAPAN!**

EXCLUSIVE BONUS MATERIAL

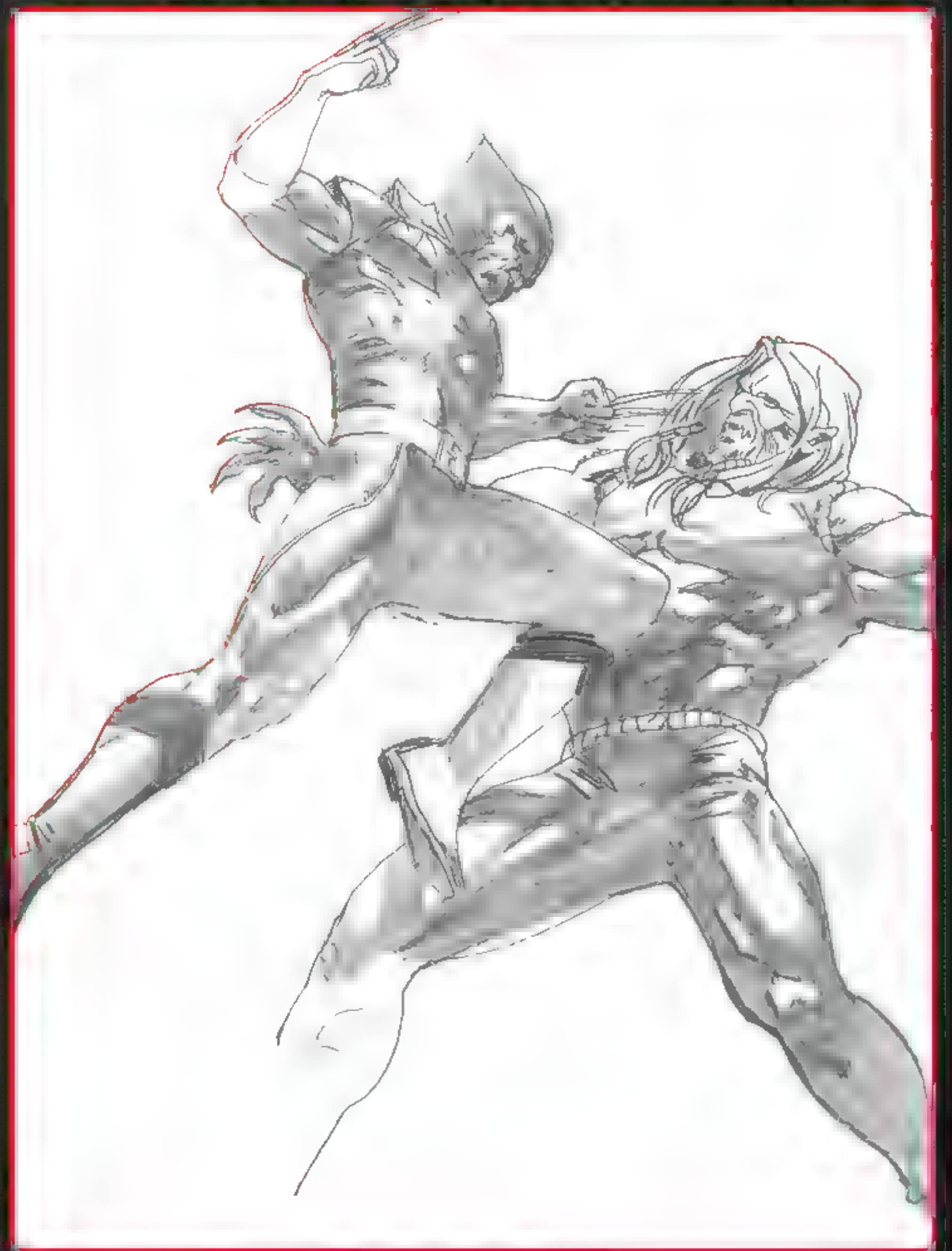
INTERIOR SKETCHES FOR ISSUE #2, COMMENTARY BY STEVE MCNIVEN

This is the first time we see Logan in disguise and we all kicked around different takes on his look. I started with the close cropped hair, moved to bald with goatee and finally to full beard which we settled on.



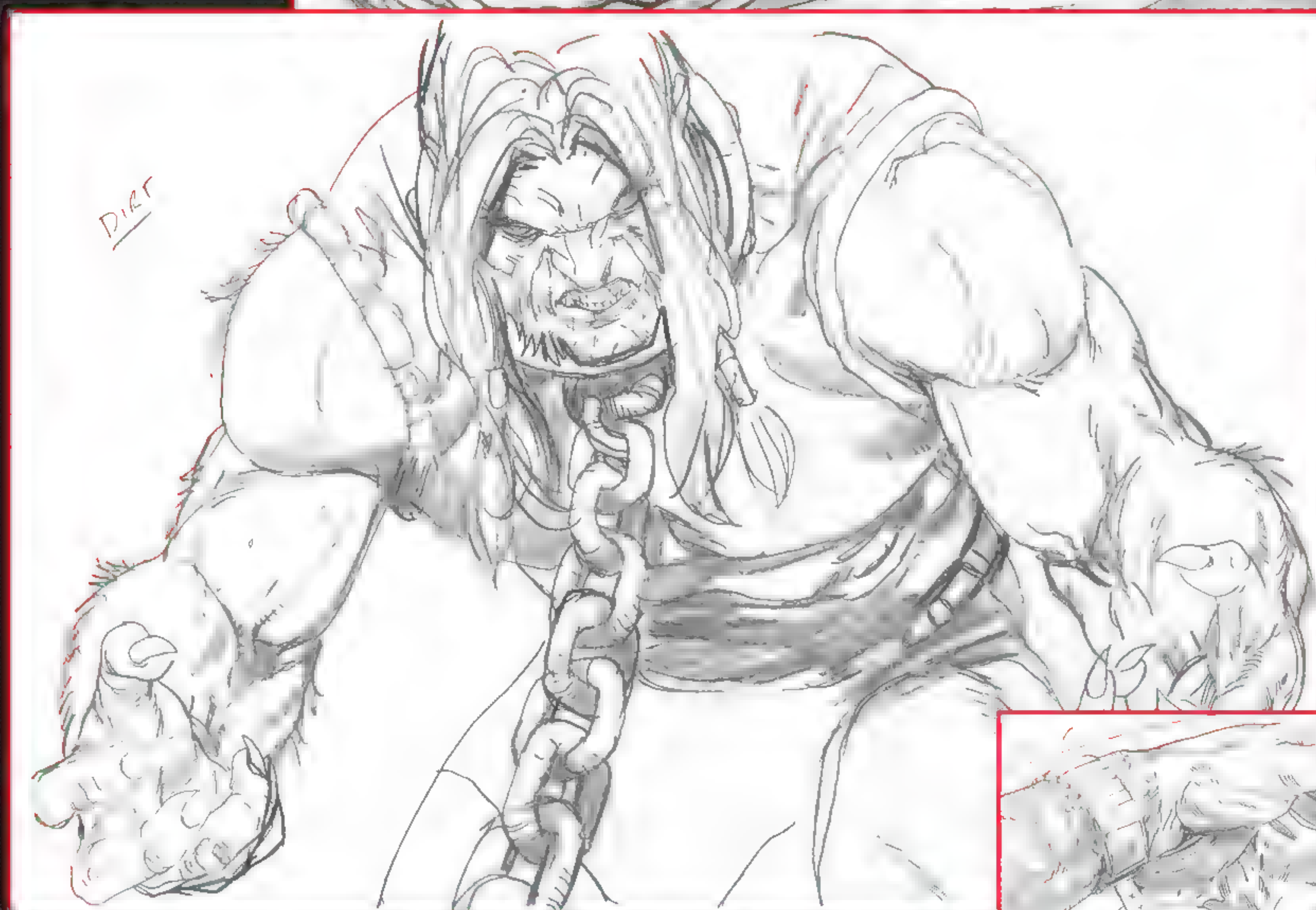
Here's the head that matches up with the above mentioned spread, with full beard, hipster style. Forgive me.

Here's the rough for one of the panels in the double spread that all takes place in the mind of Logan just before Sabretooth rips apart his daydream. I ended up pencil shading and ink washing this spread to shift it away from the "normal" look of the book to reinforce the "daydream" aspect.



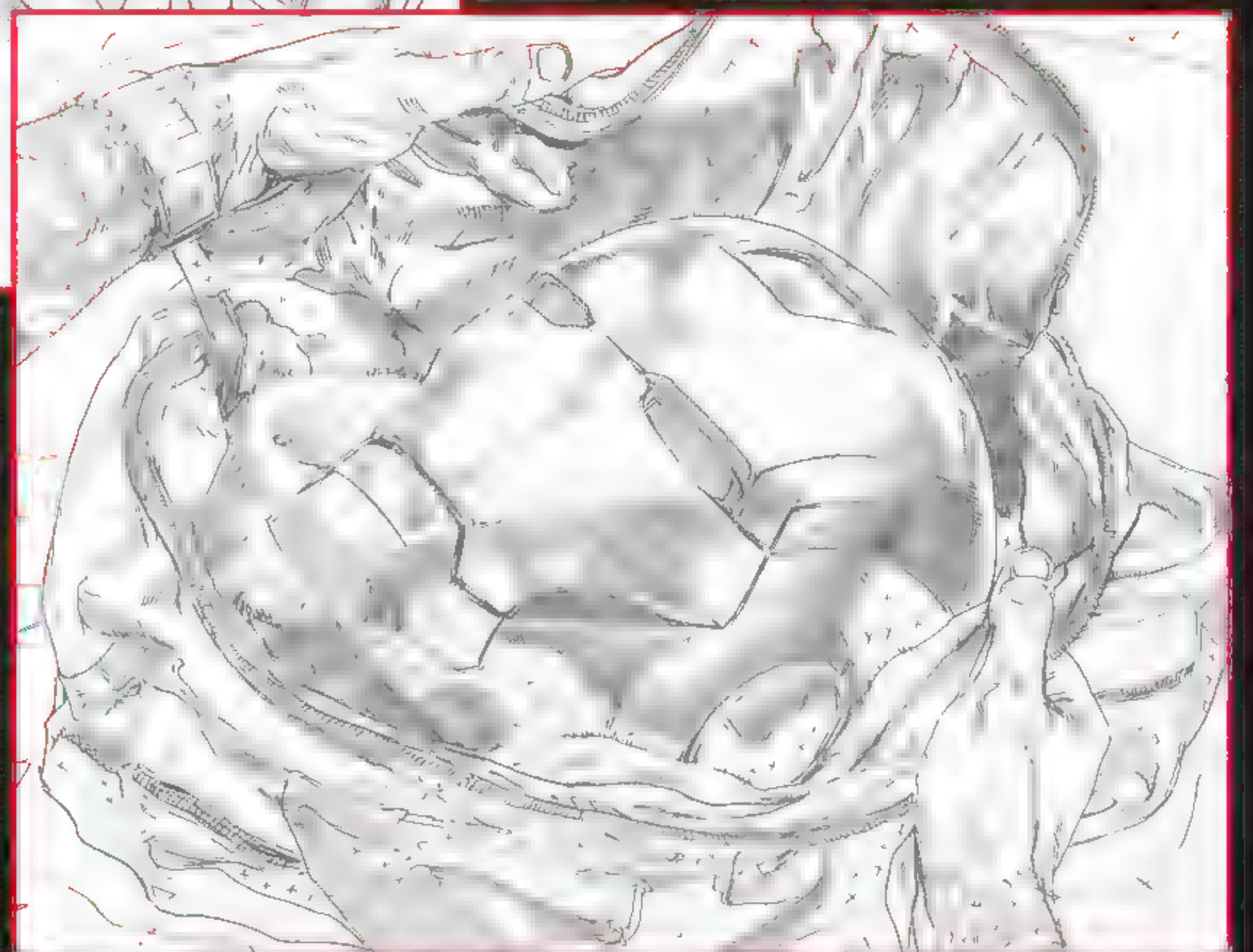
INTERIOR SKETCHES FOR ISSUE #2, COMMENTARY BY STEVE MCNIVEN

The rough for the final page of the book, a great moment that Charles dreamed up with two of my favorite characters. I love drawing Lady Deathstrike's hands!



Sabretooth's reveal as the captive of Viper. As we have already seen him at the end of issue #1, I wanted a more dramatic pose to get across the notion that Logan might be in a wee bit of trouble...

A big reveal of the object that Logan is using to gain access to Viper's lair, a functioning Iron Man helmet! I might have gotten a bit carried away with the rendering here but sometimes I can't help myself, especially when it's something fun to draw like Iron Man's helmet.



DEATH OF WOLVERINE #2—DIRECTOR'S CUT

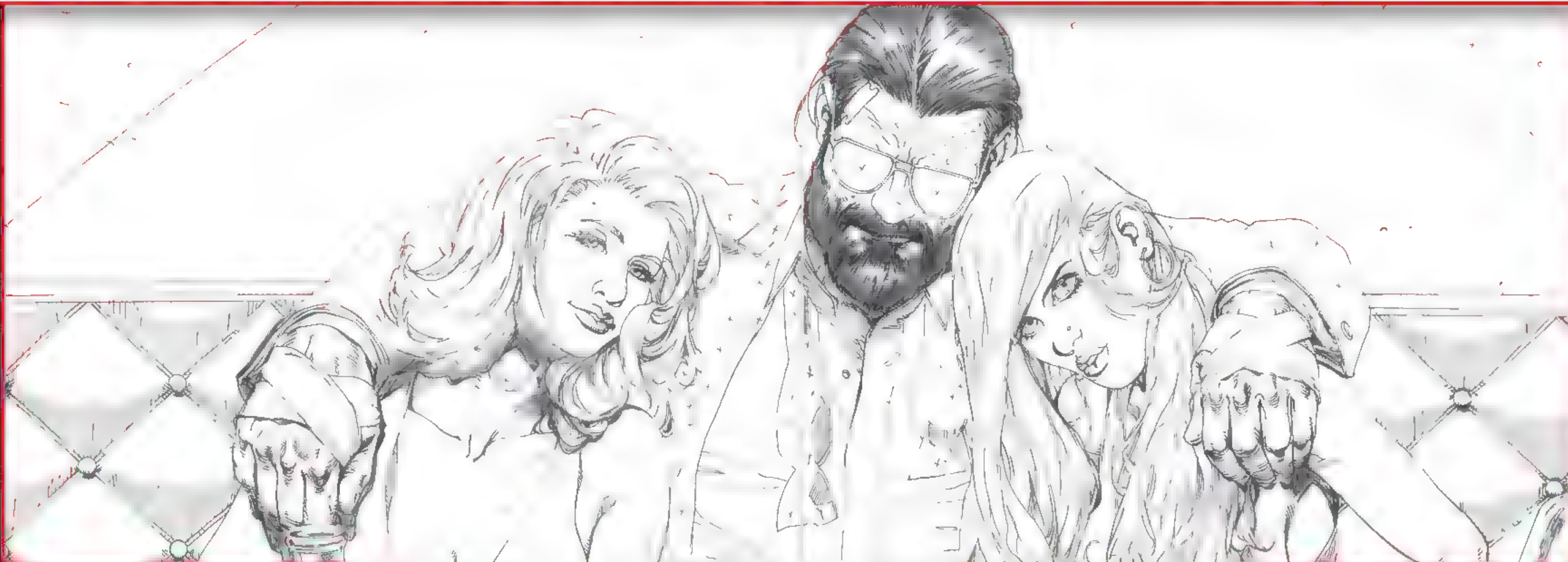
PAGES THREE-FOUR

Splash: WOLVERINE! Our boy is lounging back in the booth—total VIP stuff. He has each arm around a gorgeous lady, and the remains of what appears to be an amazing evening litter the table.

Logan himself is rocking a pretty amazing look. For one thing, he's in a tuxedo, with the bow tie untied and his collar unbuttoned. For another, his head is shaved. (The idea being that he doesn't want to be recognized, and his hairstyle is, after all, pretty recognizable.) He's wearing a pair of dark sunglasses, and he's grinning, totally relaxed. In case you're curious, he does not have a patch over his eye here.

He should have some bruises on his face - these are remnants of the injuries he took in the fight with Nuke back in Issue 1. He should still have the bandages on his hands, too—the X-shaped wraps—but these are clean, not the filthy rags he used back then.

Basically, it's a total Ocean's 11 / James Bond look, and it is amazing.



This is also where we get the cool floating white text treatment for THE DEATH OF WOLVERINE, PART II. Credits and such can work here as well.

1. LOGAN: Hey, man.
2. LOGAN: Have a seat.

TITLE & CREDITS:
THE DEATH OF WOLVERINE, PART II

DEATH OF WOLVERINE #2—DIRECTOR'S CUT

PAGE FIVE

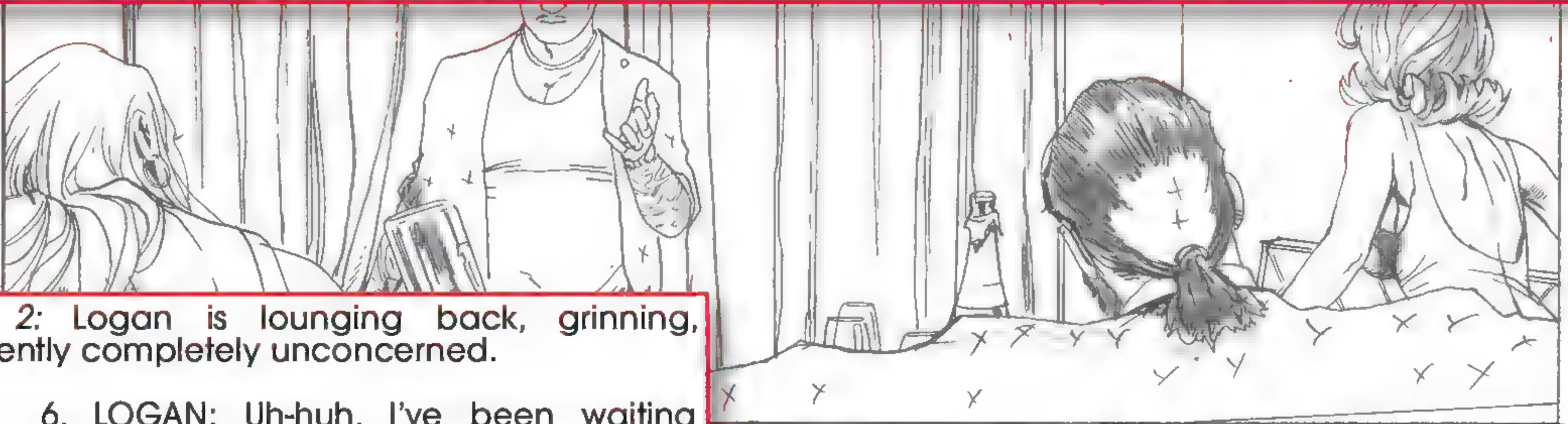
Panel 1: Koro is easing into one side of the booth as the ladies are squeezing past him, so it's just Logan and his visitor.

1. KORO: My name is Koro. And you are the one who seeks the Emerald Queen, someone whom most in Madripoor avoid at all costs. You play a dangerous game, sir.

3. LOGAN: Ain't a game. This is business.

4. KORO: So we have heard. Apparently, you have something to sell, and you think the Viper will buy.

5. SENSE CAPTION (smell): SOUR.

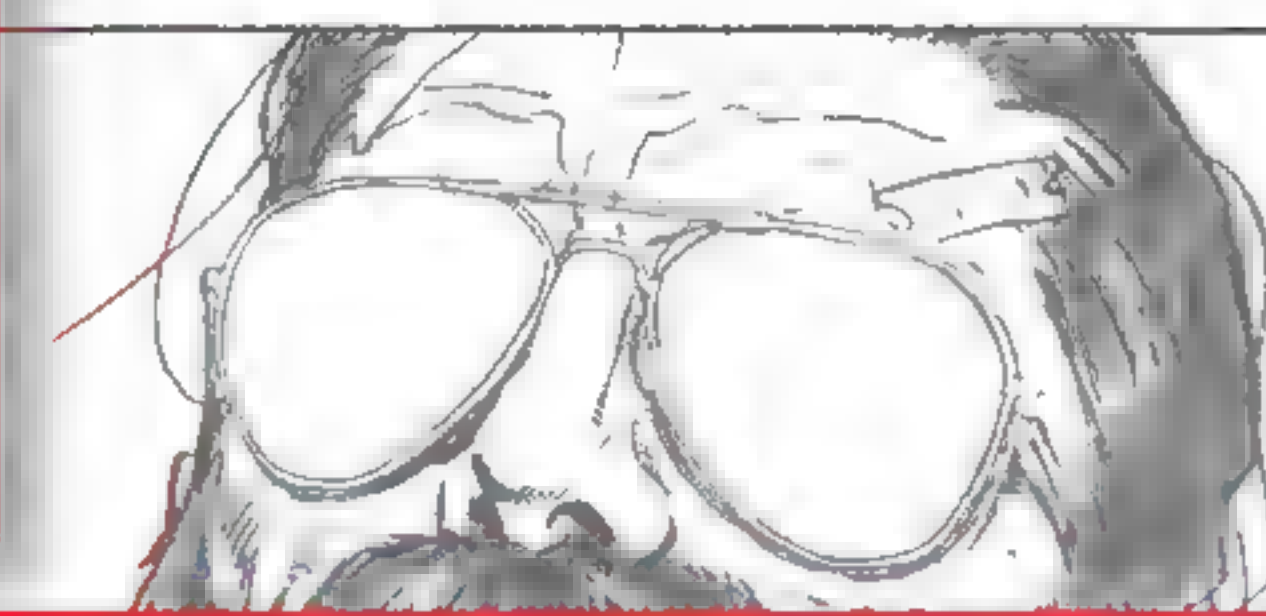


Panel 2: Logan is lounging back, grinning, apparently completely unconcerned.

6. LOGAN: Uh-huh. I've been waiting around this damn town for weeks.

6b Now, it's hard not to have a good time in Madripoor, god knows, but if Viper's not interested, well, I'll just move on.

7. LOGAN: And you can explain why she missed out on the item in question. Koro.



Panel 3: Tight shot. Logan is gesturing down towards a leather bag, zippered closed sitting on the seat next to him—it's roughly the size and shape of a bowling ball bag. Koro is reacting with surprise. He's looking down at the item Logan is indicating.

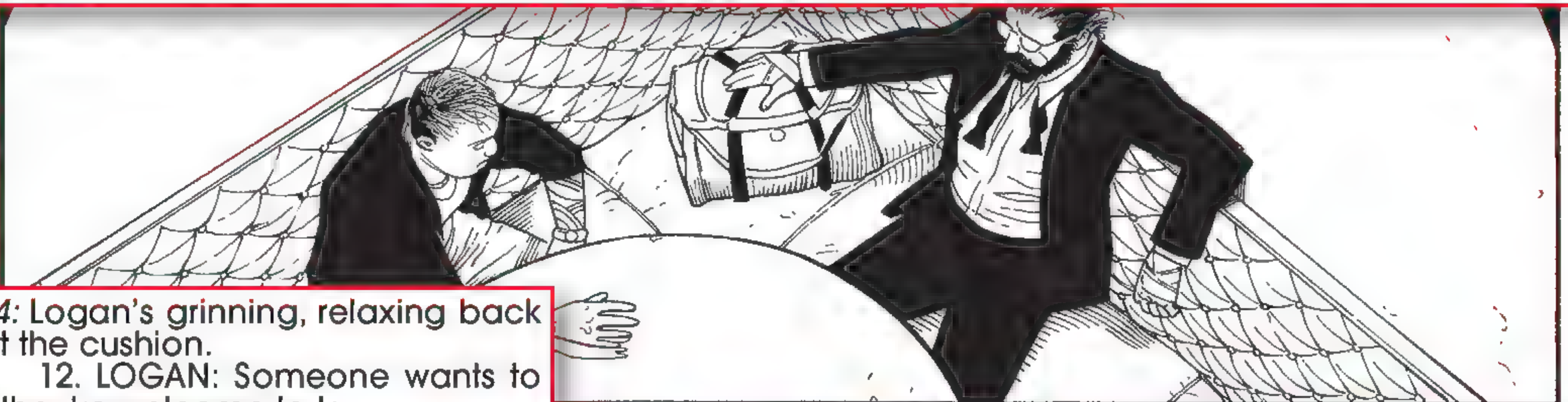
8. LOGAN: I hear Mystique's running Madripoor these days. That's why I came to Viper first. Figure she'd be trying to move up. A motivated buyer.

8b But I'm sure Mystique would love to get her hands on this too.

9. KORO: You have it with you?

10. KORO: You are a brave man, my friend.

11. LOGAN: Eh. Been called worse.



Panel 4: Logan's grinning, relaxing back against the cushion.

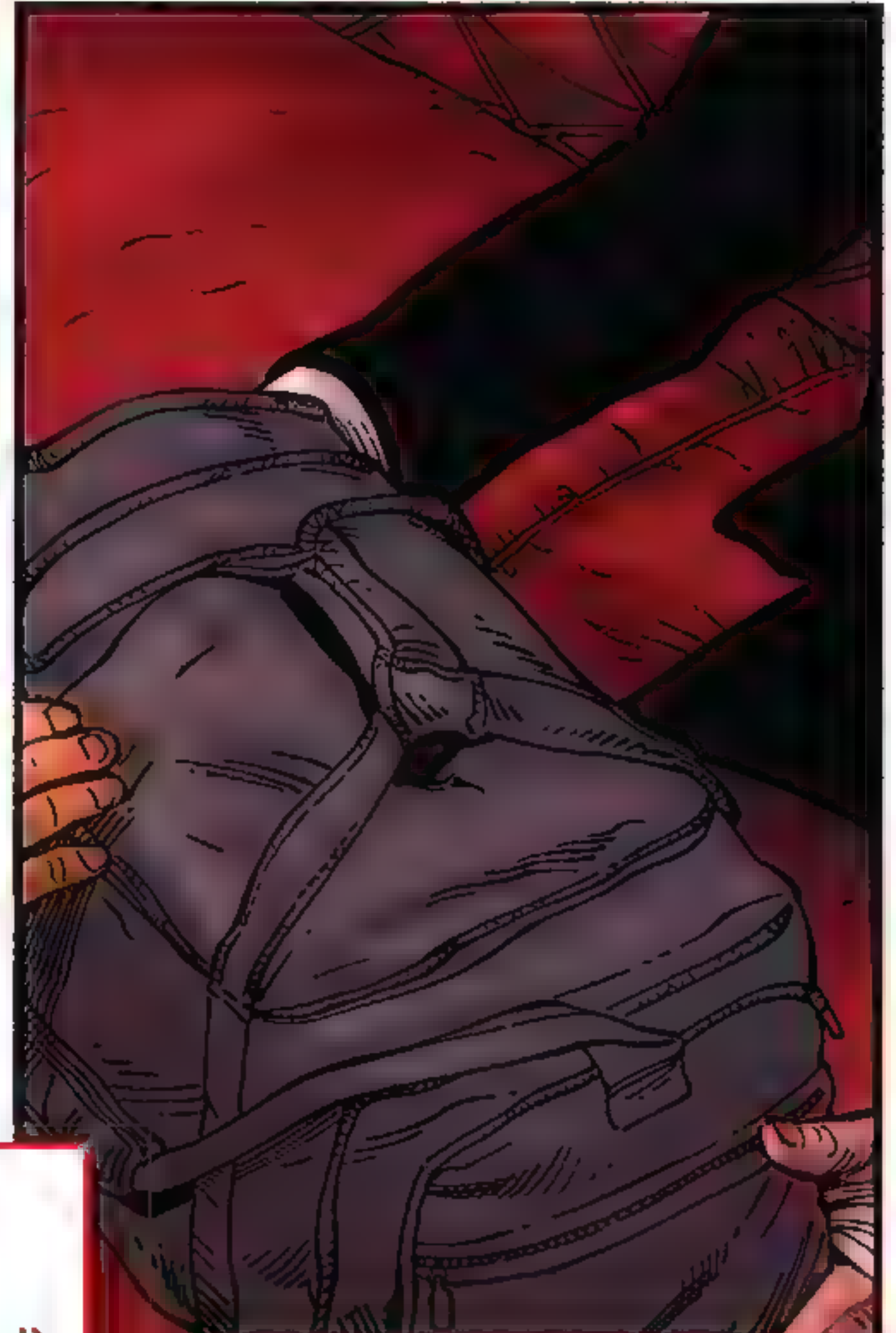
12. LOGAN: Someone wants to take it, they're welcome to try.



Panel 5: Koro.

13. KORO: Can I...see it?

14. SENSE CAPTION (Sound): ACCELERATED HEARTBEAT.



Panel 6: Logan is lifting the bag up onto the table.

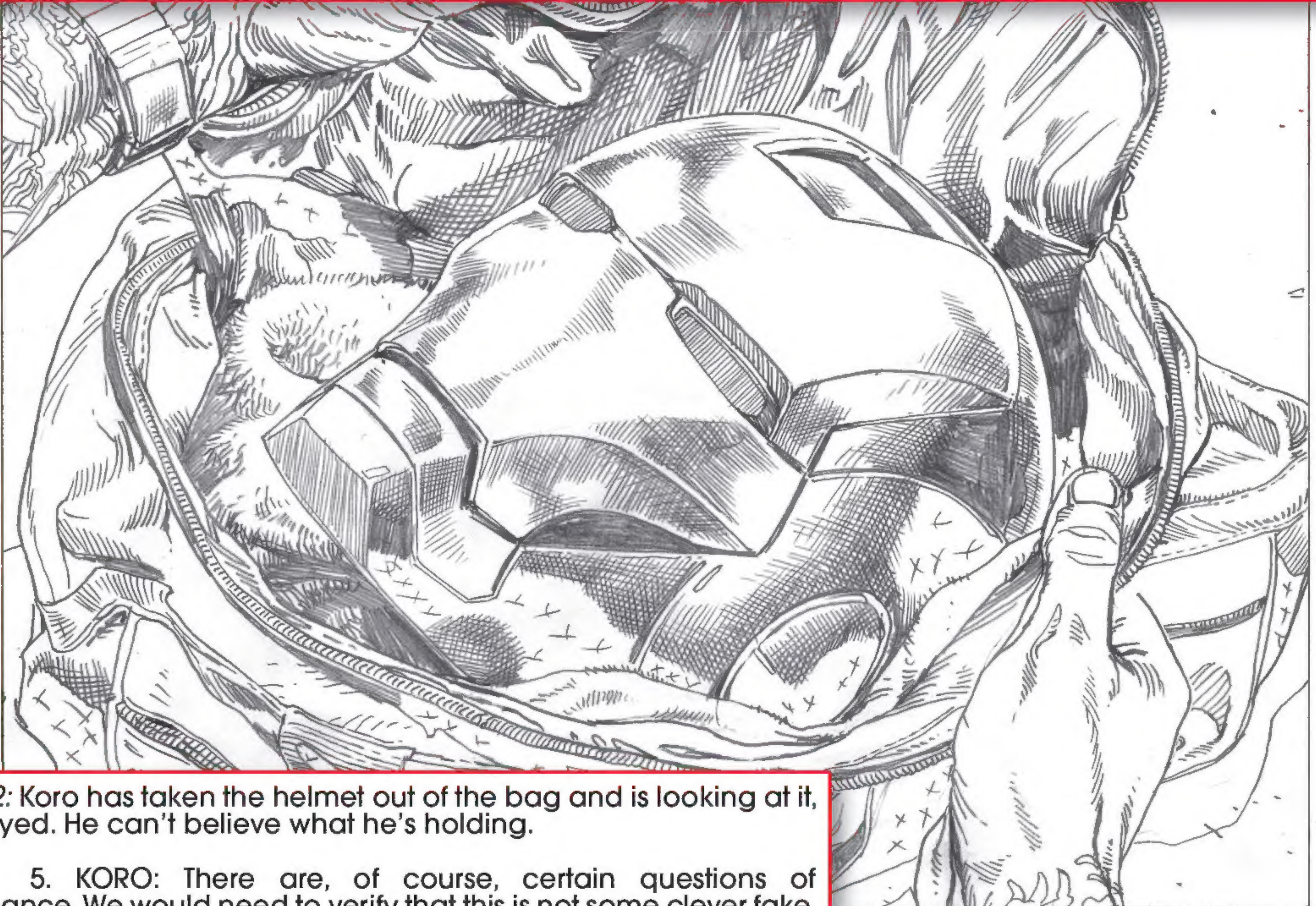
15. LOGAN: Sure.

DEATH OF WOLVERINE #2—DIRECTOR'S CUT

PAGE SIX

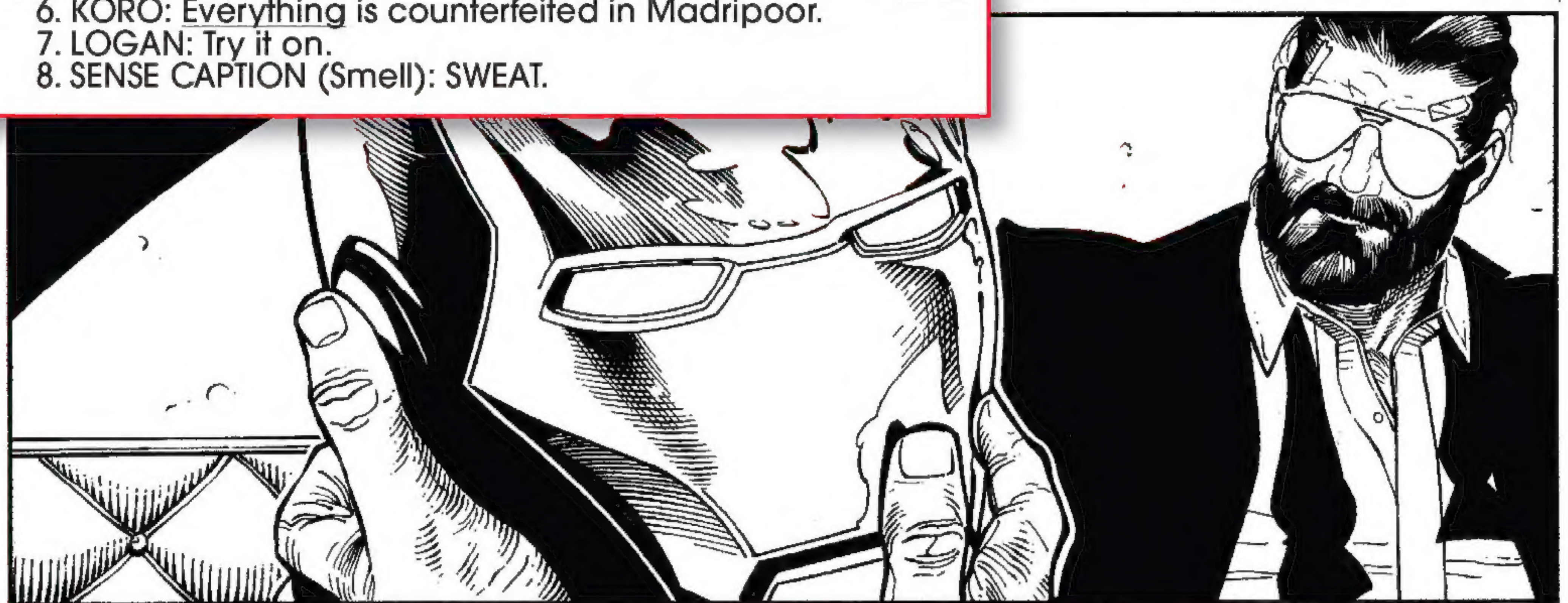
Panel 1: Large panel. We're looking down into the unzipped bag, where we can see that it contains...
...an Iron Man helmet! This is the modern style IM helmet, based off the Granov designs.

1. KORO: Gods.
2. LOGAN: That's a Mark IX. The only versions more recent than this live in Tony Stark's head.
3. KORO: May I... may I...?
4. LOGAN: Knock yourself out.



Panel 2: Koro has taken the helmet out of the bag and is looking at it, wide-eyed. He can't believe what he's holding.

5. KORO: There are, of course, certain questions of provenance. We would need to verify that this is not some clever fake.
6. KORO: Everything is counterfeited in Madripoor.
7. LOGAN: Try it on.
8. SENSE CAPTION (Smell): SWEAT.



Panel 3: Koro is slipping the helmet on over his head. Logan is twitching aside the curtains, gesturing for Koro to look out towards the bar.

9. LOGAN: You tell me.
10. SENSE CAPTION (Sound): HEART POUNDING.

DEATH OF WOLVERINE #2—DIRECTOR'S CUT

PAGE SEVEN

Panel 1: Koro peering through the curtain.

1. LOGAN (O.S.): Real enough for you?



Panel 2: Awesome shot of the bar, as seen through the Iron Man helmet's interface. What we're seeing is that at least half the people in the bar have weapons strapped to themselves under their clothes, even (especially) the hot young ladies in cocktail dresses. Shotguns are stashed under the bar, bags are filled with cash, certain people have dossiers popping up next to them (actually, one thing that would be super cool would be to have one of the people be a Marvel U villain—can we have one of these fellows be Kristoff Vernard, the son of Dr. Doom? I'm trying to establish him as a total Eurotrash party guy in some of the other stuff I'm writing, and this is exactly the kind of scene where he'd hang out.

2. CAPTION (Koro, quotes): "This is...incredible. The tactical advantage something like this could convey... What is your price?"

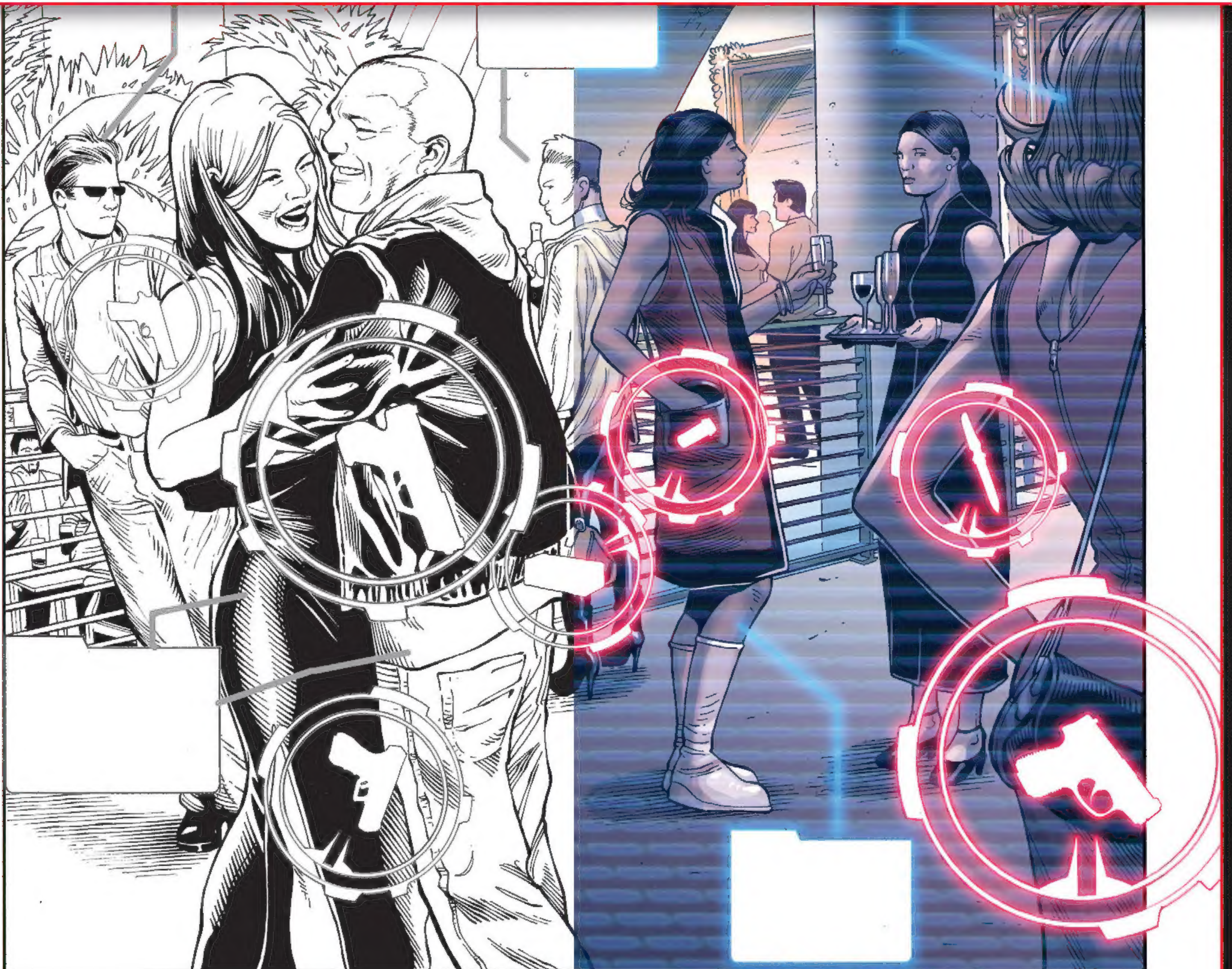
3. CAPTION (Logan): "No offense, Koro, but I didn't come here to deal with an underling.

4. CAPTION (Logan): "If Viper wants this, she'll have to deal with me in person."

5. CAPTION (Koro): "...

6. CAPTION (Koro): "You may come to regret your insistence. But very well..."

7. CAPTION (Koro): "...I will take you to the Lady."



DEATH OF WOLVERINE #3





NATHAN